PI-NATSU GA IPPAI
BY: YACHI EMIKO

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ASUKA COMICS

PI-NATSU GA IPPAI

YACHI EMIKO

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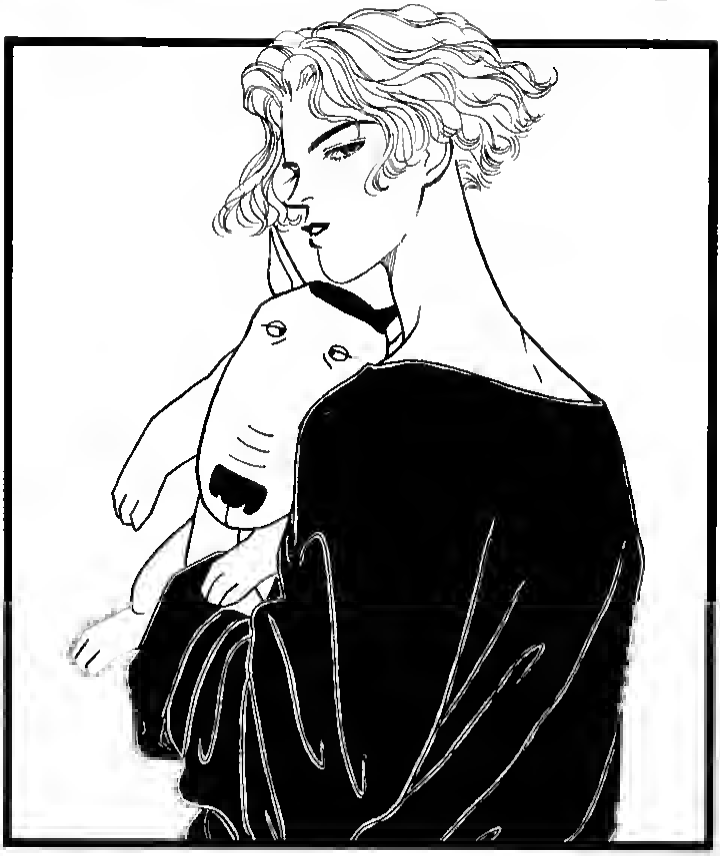
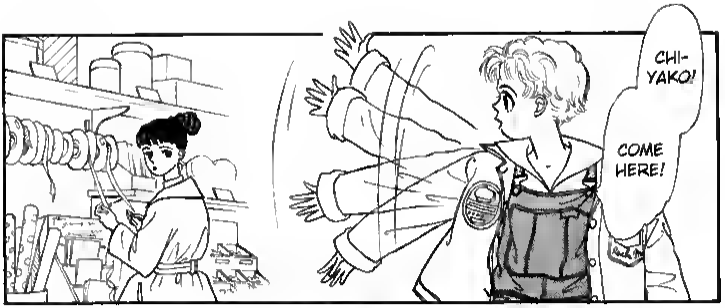
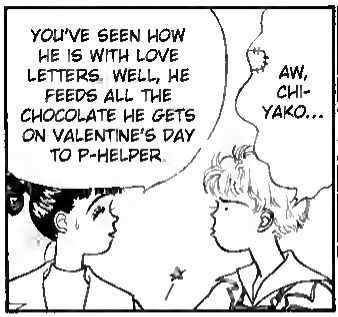
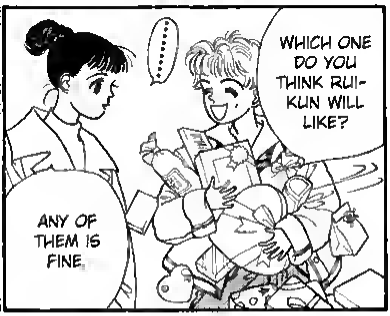


THERE ARE SO MANY...
Valentine's chocolates
I CAN'T DECIDE!

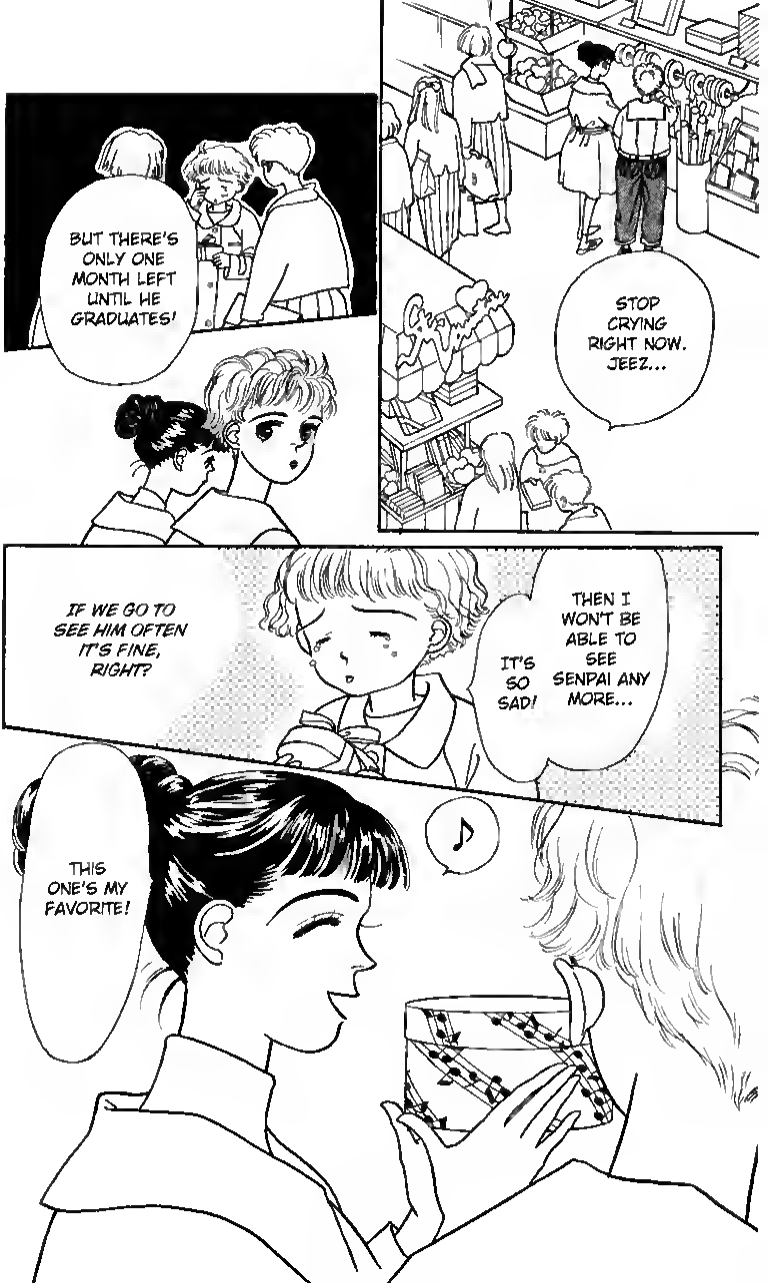

CHI-YAKO!
COME HERE!


YOU'VE SEEN HOW HE IS WITH LOVE LETTERS. WELL, HE FEEDS ALL THE CHOCOLATE HE GETS ON VALENTINE'S DAY TO P-HELPER.
AW, CHI-YAKO...

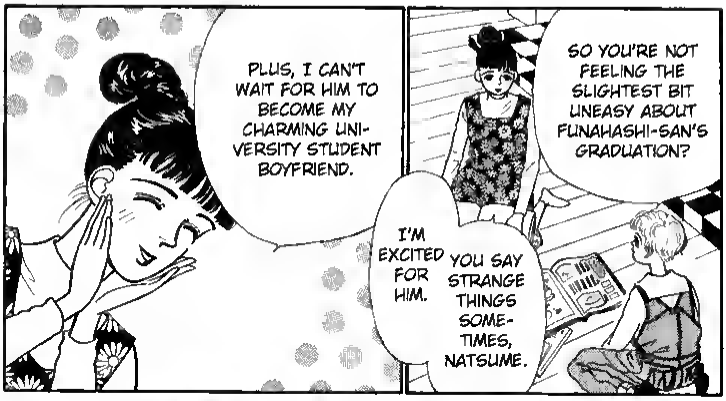

WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK RUI-KUN WILL LIKE?
ANY OF THEM IS FINE.

90% of the chocolate
SO P-HELPER'S GONNA BE EATING IT
OKAY, I GUESS
OH, I
THAT'S
YOU HAVE IT EASY, CHIYAKO
YOU CAN JUST GIVE ONE OF YOUR HOME-MADE SWEETS AS A PRESENT.
UNFORTU-NATELY, FUNAHASHI-SAN DISLIKES SWEET THINGS.

I WONDER IF I'D BE ABLE TO DO IT...?
IT'S EASY, I PROM-ISE!
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE THEM?
OKAY, I'LL GIVE IT A GO!
IN THAT CASE, LET'S BUY THE THINGS TO WRAP THE CHOCOLATE UP IN FROM HERE.
THEY HAVE SO MANY CUTE DESIGNS!
♪
YAY!


BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE MONTH LEFT UNTIL HE GRADUATES!
STOP CRYING RIGHT NOW. JEEZ...
IF WE GO TO SEE HIM OFTEN IT'S FINE, RIGHT?
IT'S SO SAD!
THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE SENPAI ANY MORE...
THIS ONE'S MY FAVORITE!
♪

UPSET?
WHY WOULD I BE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY?" FUNAHASHI-SAN IS GOING TO BE GRADUATING SOON, AND AFTER THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AS MUCH.
EVEN IF I WON'T BE SEEING HIM AT SCHOOL,
WE WILL STILL MEET UP ELSE-WHERE, RIGHT?
I GUESS SO...


PLUS, I CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM TO BECOME MY CHARMING UNIVERSITY STUDENT BOYFRIEND.
I'M EXCITED FOR HIM.
YOU SAY STRANGE THINGS SOMETIMES, NATSUME.
SO YOU'RE NOT FEELING THE SLIGHTEST BIT UNEASY ABOUT FUNAHASHI-SAN'S GRADUATION?

GRADUATION, HUH?

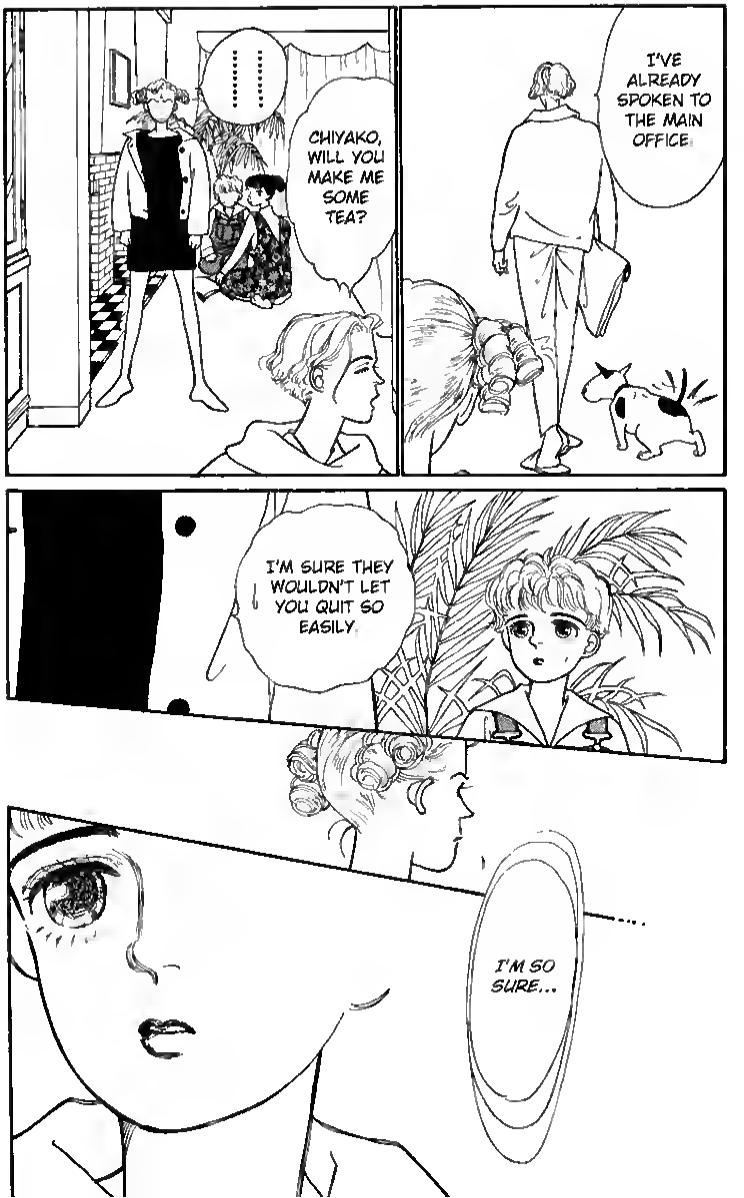
WON'T YOU BE LONELY AT SCHOOL WITHOUT ME?
NOPE.
I'M GOING TO PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO BECOMING A CHARMING UNIVERSITY STUDENT!
HAH, LIKE I HAVE ENOUGH FREE TIME FOR YOUR ANTICS!
RIGHT.
SO WHY DON'T WE GO ON A DATE SOMEWHERE?

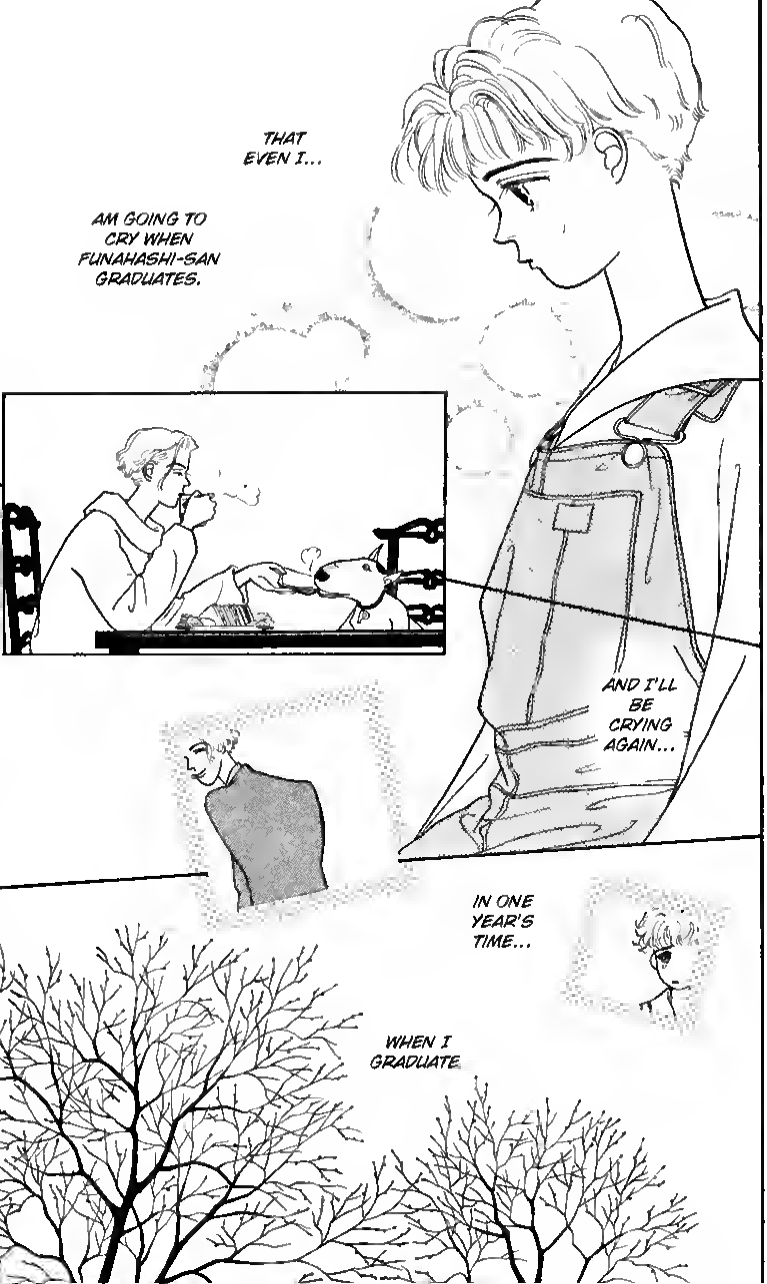
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR
WHAT'S UP?
RUI!
OPEN
Hello!
WHERE'S RUI?!

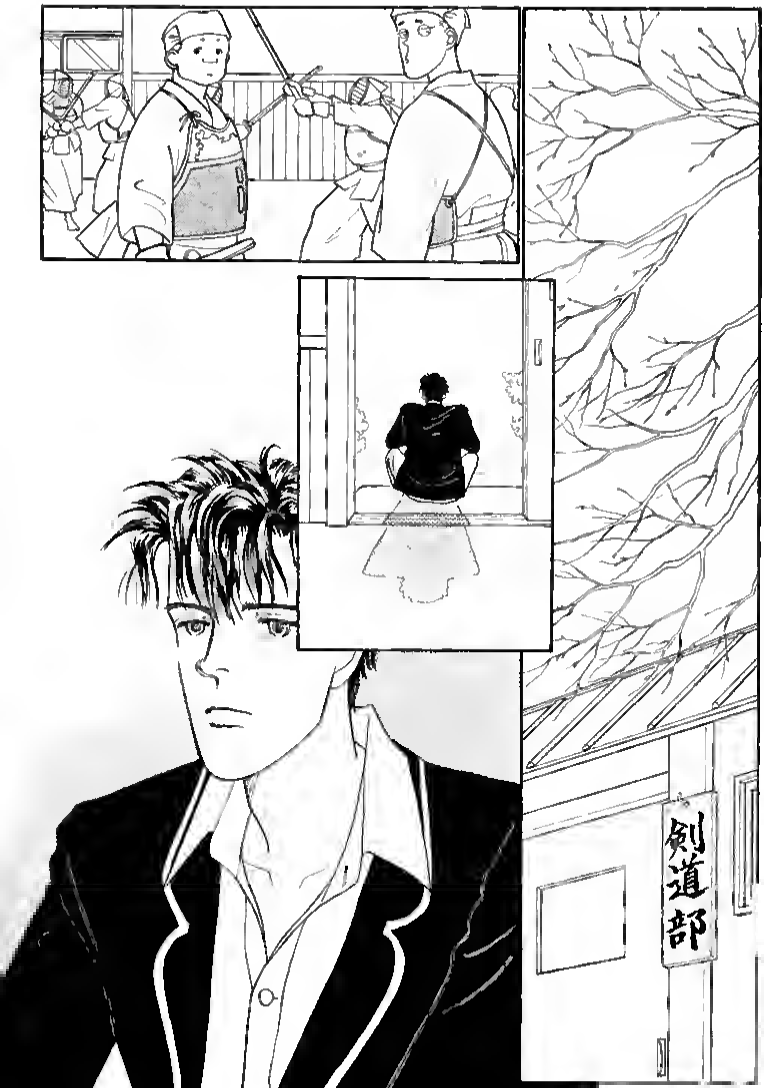
HEY, IS RUI REALLY PLANNING TO QUIT MODELLING?
YES, IT LOOKS LIKE IT.
HE'S NOT HERE, BUT HE SHOULD BE COMING BACK SOON.
HE SAID THAT THAT COMMERCIAL A WHILE AGO WAS HIS LAST JOB.
DON'T JOKE WITH ME, CACTUS GIRL!!

IF WE AREN'T WORKING TOGETHER, THEN WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR DAYS AND DAYS!
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
WORK IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RUI AND I. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF IT BREAKS.
I CAN SEE SOME SIMILARITIES BETWEEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES HERE.
YOU'RE BEING CREEPY, STOP IT.
Fellowship

I SEE.
ANY WAY!
THERE'S NO OTHER MODEL FOR ME BUT RUI!
RUI!
I'M HUNGRY. WHAT IS THERE TO EAT, CHIYAKO?
There's a sandwich for you!
THAT WAS JUST A JOKE. HEY, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO QUIT MODELLING, ARE YOU?
BESIDES, THE MAIN OFFICE WON'T LET YOU GO THAT EASY...
SHUT THE HELL UP.


.....
CHIYAKO, WILL YOU MAKE ME SOME TEA?
I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE MAIN OFFICE.
I'M SURE THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU QUIT SO EASILY.
I'M SO SURE...
....


THAT EVEN I...
AM GOING TO CRY WHEN FUNAHASHI-SAN GRADUATES.
AND I'LL BE CRYING AGAIN...
IN ONE YEAR'S TIME...
WHEN I GRADUATE



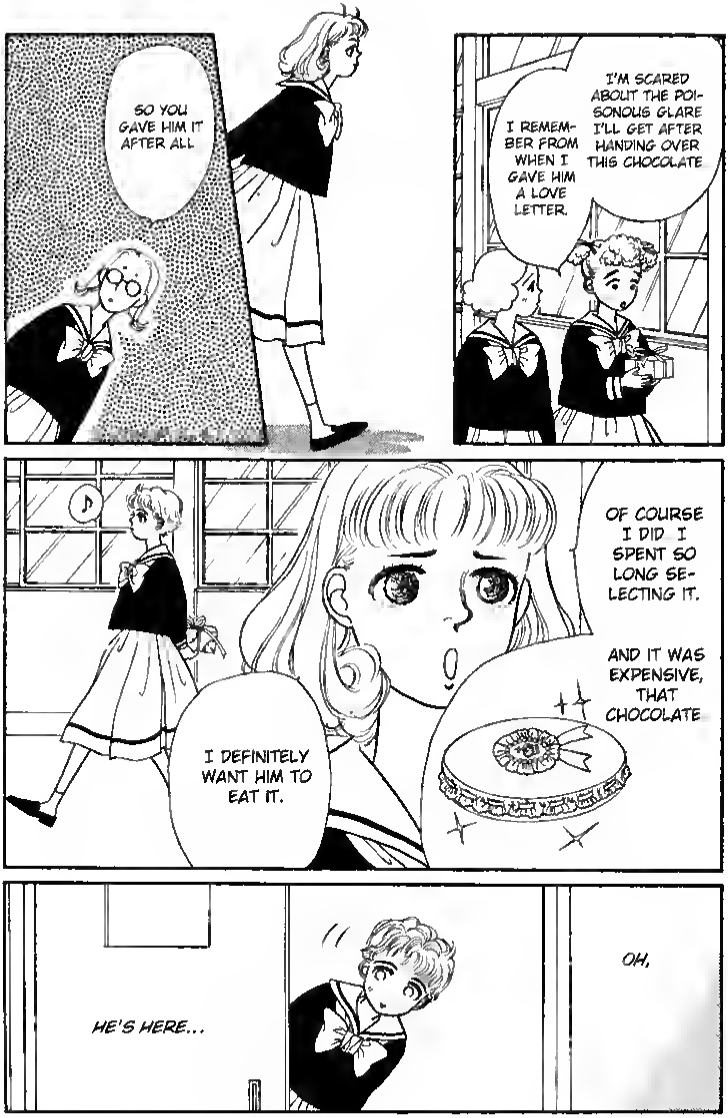
Sign: Kendo Club.

DON'T BE STUPID. I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT THE ENTRANCE EXAM.
YOU'LL BE FINE, STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT.
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAM, CAPTAIN.
THERE'S A LOT TO THINK ABOUT...
VERY SOON, WE'LL BE SEPARATED.
CAPTAIN'S GOING TO BE SO LONELY WHEN HE ISN'T ABLE TO SEE CHIYAKO-SAN EVERYDAY
AWWW, CAPTAAAAIN!
YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING OUT LOUD!

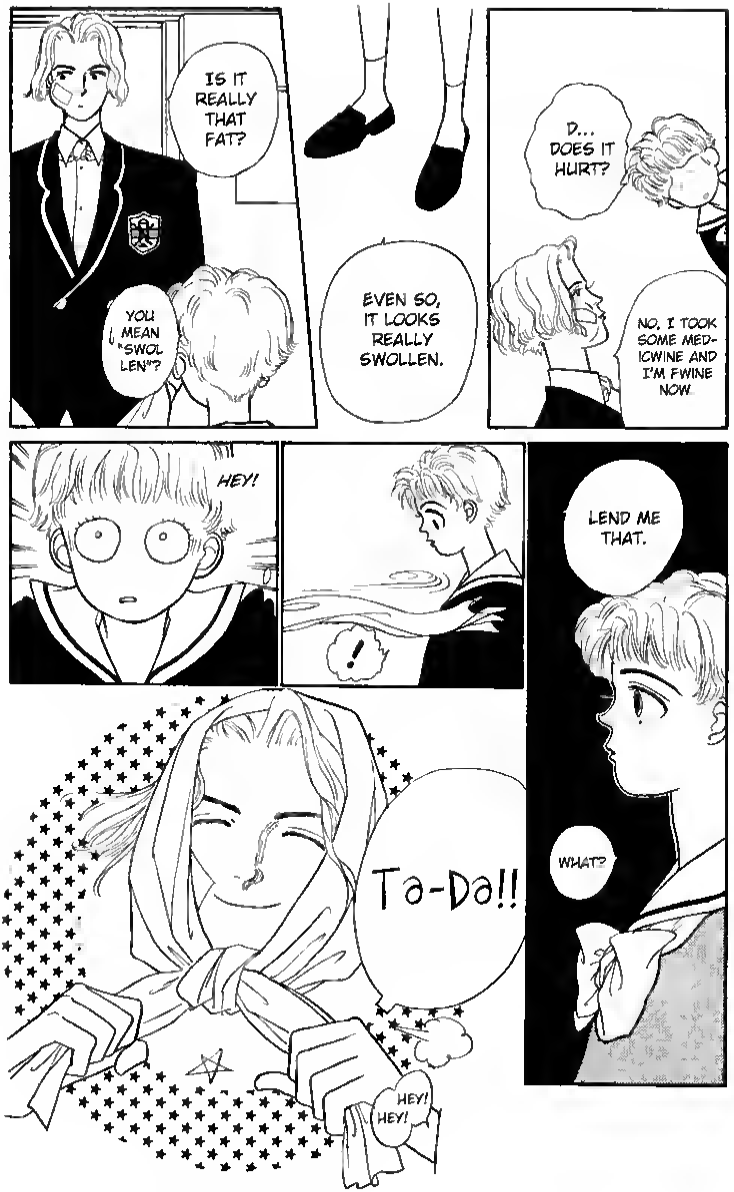
.....
YOU GUYS BETTER NOT START SKIPPING TRAINING SESSIONS WHEN I'M NOT AROUND! I'LL DEFINITELY FIND OUT!
GET BACK TO YOUR TRAINING!
HE'S NOT OKAY.
OF COURSE NOT. MEN ARE DELICATE CREATURES WHEN IT COMES TO STUFF LIKE THIS.

BUT IN COM-PARISON,
I GUESS SHE DOESN'T LOVE THE CAPTAIN AS MUCH AS HE LOVES HER.
SHE SEEMS TOTALLY FINE WITH IT, DOESN'T SHE?

BECAUSE IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE!
NO WAY! IT HAS TO BE TOMORROW AT SCHOOL.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT TO HIM WHEN HE COMES HOME TODAY?
VALENTIN 'S DAY


SO YOU GAVE HIM IT AFTER ALL
I REMEMBER FROM WHEN I GAVE HIM A LOVE LETTER.
I'M SCARED ABOUT THE POISONOUS GLARE I'LL GET AFTER HANDING OVER THIS CHOCOLATE
OF COURSE I DID I SPENT SO LONG SELECTING IT.
AND IT WAS EXPENSIVE, THAT CHOCOLATE
I DEFINITELY WANT HIM TO EAT IT.
OH,
HE'S HERE...

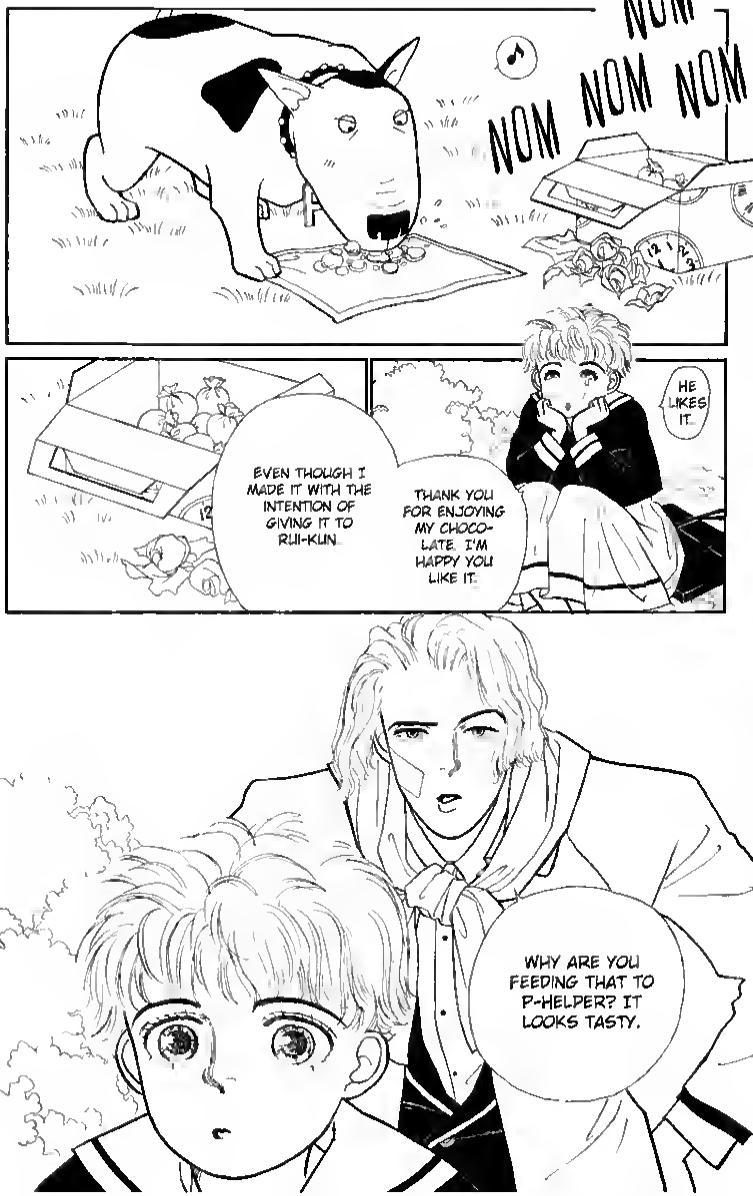
HEY, RUI-KUN
HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE
WH... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?!
I FELL OBA IN THE PWAYG-WOUND,
As if he was explaining to his parents.
.....


IS IT REALLY THAT FAT?
YOU MEAN "SWOLLEN"?
EVEN SO, IT LOOKS REALLY SWOLLEN.
D... DOES IT HURT?
NO, I TOOK SOME MEDICWINE AND I'M FWINE NOW.
HEY!
!
LEND ME THAT.
WHAT?
Ta-Da!!
HEY!
HEY!

YOU DID IT YOURSELF, REMEMBER?
B... BUT IT LOOKED FINE ON ME...
WITH THIS, NOBODY WILL KNOW.
BUT YOU LOOK REALLY STUPID!
Wahahaha
What's with that?
Hai
I WASN'T ABLE TO HAND THIS OVER.
IN THE END,

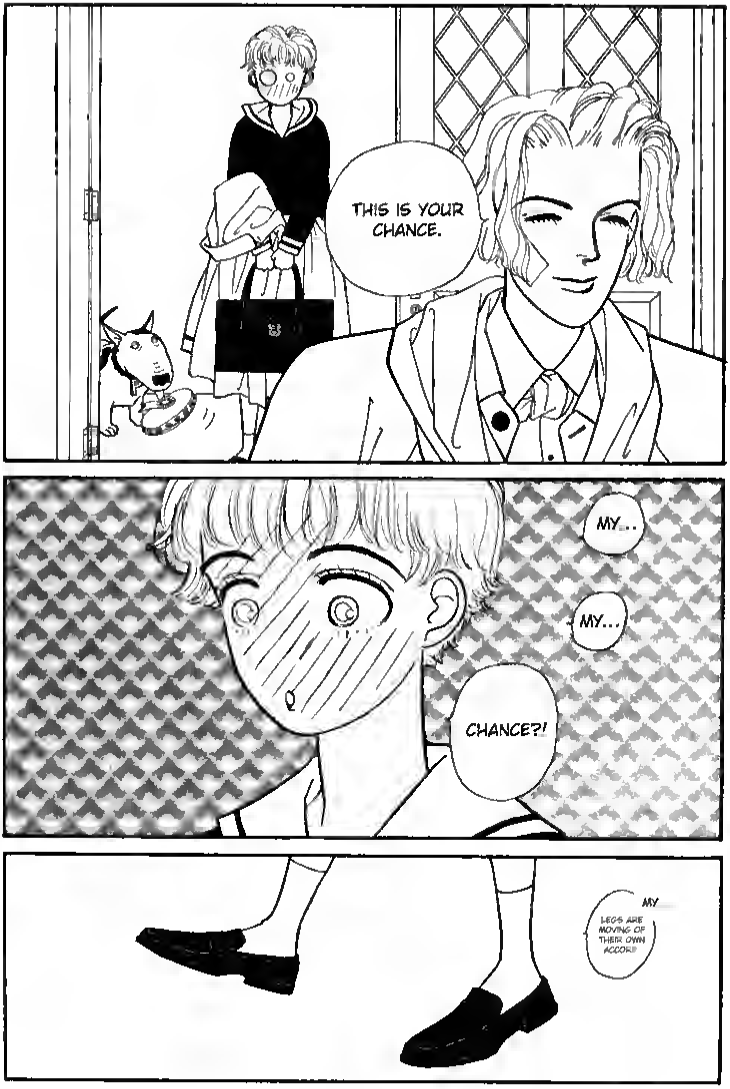
FOR ME?
HAND-MADE
IT'S NOT VERY SWEET. I THOUGHT THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO EAT.
You're welcome.
THANK YOU.

DOES IT TASTE NICE?
PHEW.
DELI-CIOUS!
DOES IT TASTE NICE?


NOM
NOM NOM NOM
HE LIKES IT.
THANK YOU FOR ENJOYING MY CHOCO-LATE. I'M HAPPY YOU LIKE IT.
EVEN THOUGH I MADE IT WITH THE INTENTION OF GIVING IT TO RUI-KUN.
WHY ARE YOU FEEDING THAT TO P-HELPER? IT LOOKS TASTY.

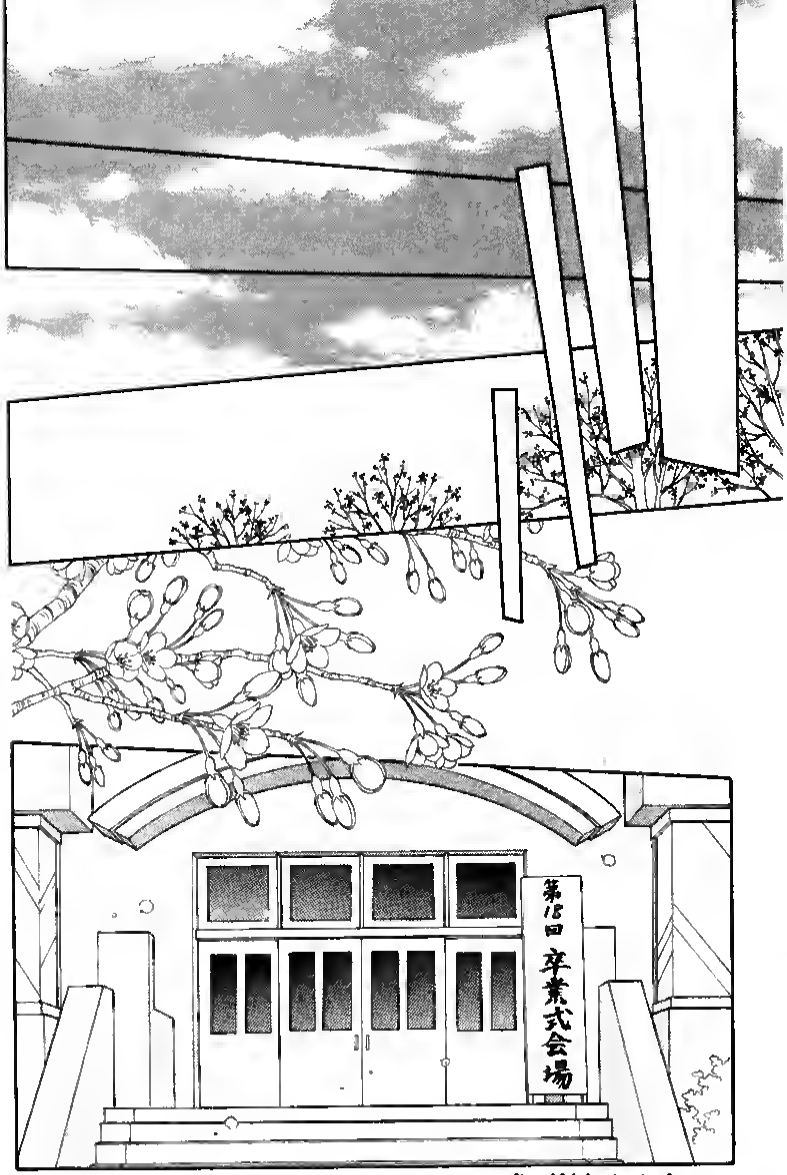
YOU CAN'T EAT MY CHOCOLATE BECAUSE YOU HAVE TOOTH-ACHE, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T HURT ANY-MORE
Bow
AH! YOU'RE BACK!
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
YOU CAN HAVE THIS ONE INSTEAD
filling up with tears
OPEN
AREN'T YOU WITH CHIYAKO TODAY?
THAT CHOCOLATE LOOKS EX-PENSIVE!

SHE'S ON A DATE WITH FUNAHASHI-SAN TODAY
BECAUSE FUNAHASHI-SAN WILL BE GRADUATING SOON
I THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME TOGETHER AS POSSIBLE
ARE YOU COMING IN?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO ONE ELSE IN.
She doesn't want to be a nuisance


THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.
MY...
MY...
CHANCE?!
MY LEGS ARE MOVING OF THEIR OWN ACCORD!

AAAH! NATSUME-SAN! NICE TO SEE YOU!
RUI WAS IN YOUR CARE OVER NEW YEAR'S. I'M STILL SO SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOUR FAMILY WELL?
YES, EVERYONE'S FINE!
I BOUGHT A DELICIOUS CAKE TODAY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH US?
Please do!
I WILL, THANK YOU!
BUT... MY CHANCE
RUUUUI!!!!

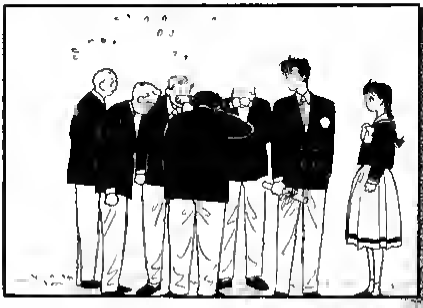
Happy Valentine's Day!!
OH, NO...
I GIVE UP...
Has he eaten it yet?



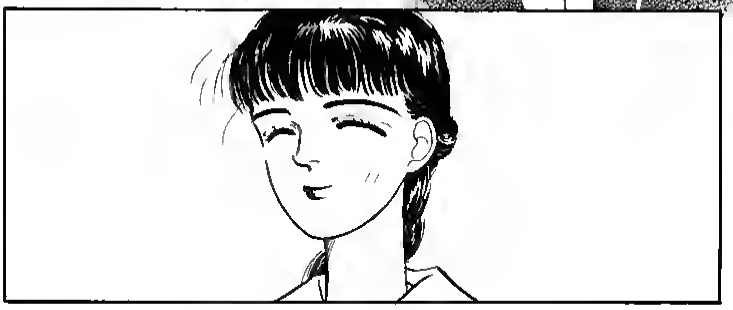
Sign: 18th Graduation Ceremony

*T/N: Hotaru no Hikari (The glow of the firefly) is a Japanese version of Auld Lang Syne , often sung at graduation ceremonies

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, BUT WE WISH YOU WELL
WILL YOU PLEASE WRITE A LITTLE SOMETHING IN THIS FOR ME?
Don't be shy!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRITE A LOT!
JUST A FEW OF YOUR MEMORIES WITH ME...
.....
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!



THANK YOU.



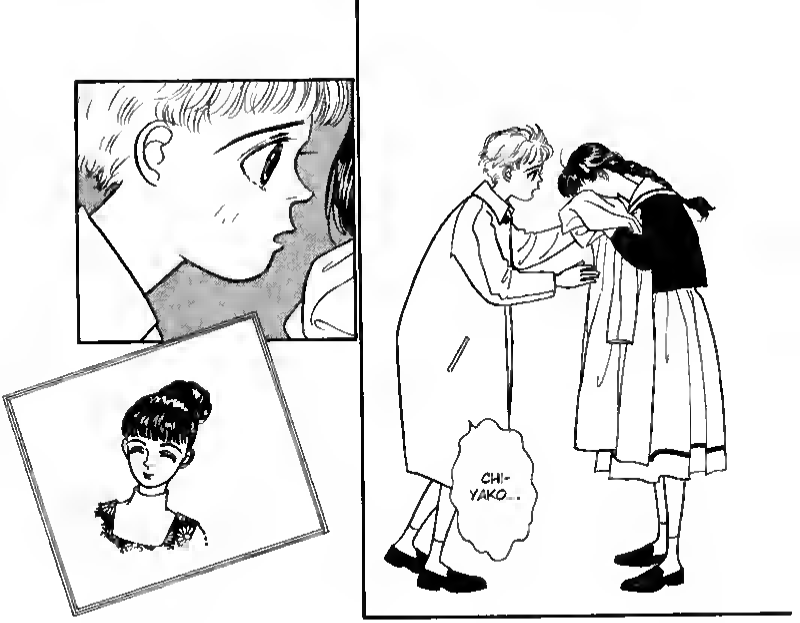
CHIYAKO IS SO STRONG.

KENDO CLUB GUYS ARE HAVING A FAREWELL PARTY, RIGHT?
HOW COME WE'RE WALKING OFF SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?

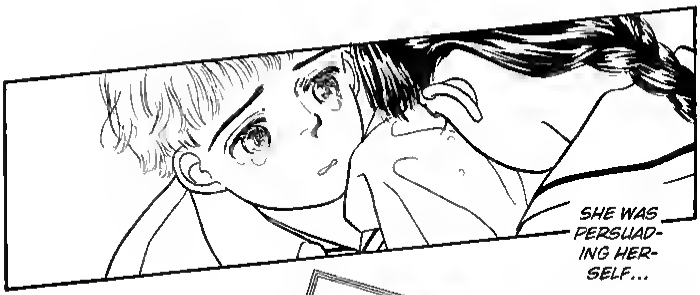
I THINK THAT PARTY IS JUST FOR CLUB MEMBERS.

REALLY? BUT WOULDN'T THE PRESENCE OF A FEW GIRLS LIVEN IT UP?

IT SEEMS THAT... I'M AT MY LIMIT...
ALSO,
CHI-YAKO?



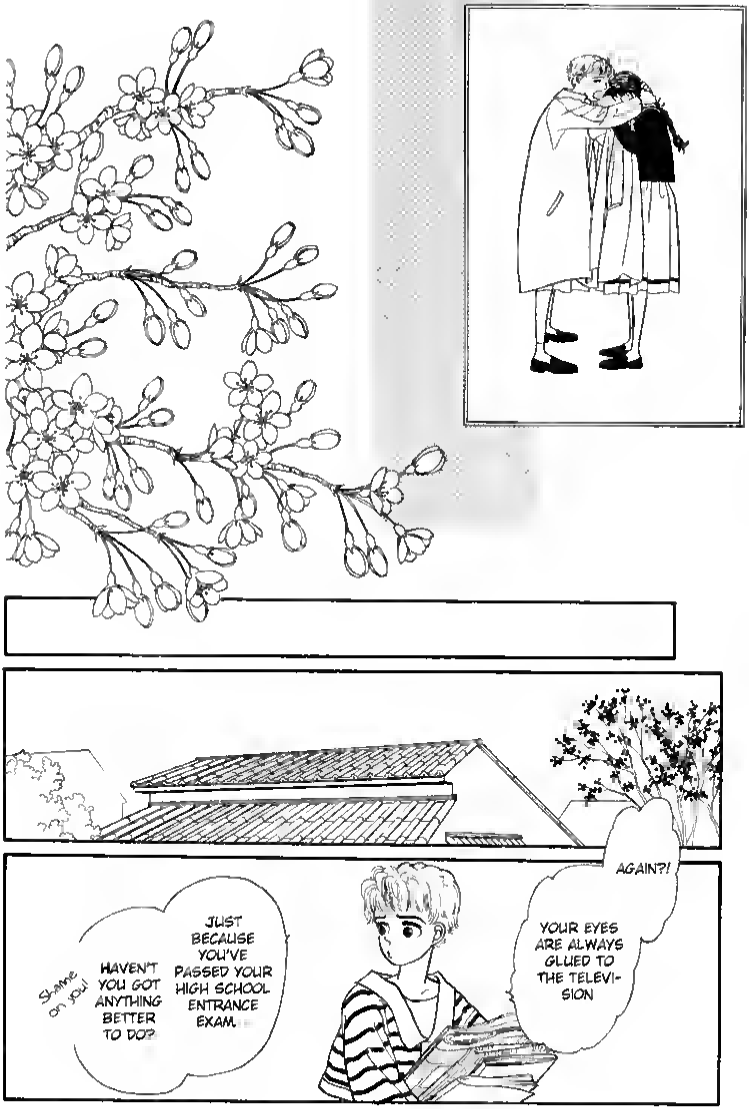
I GET IT NOW.



SHE WAS PERSUADING HERSELF...

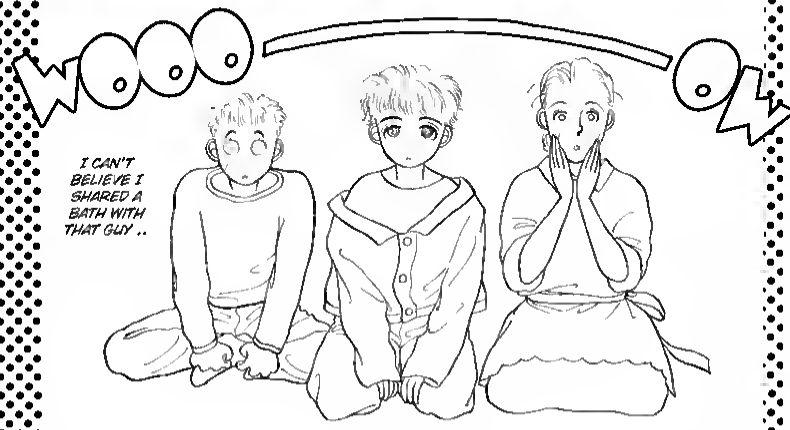
TO KEEP HER FEELINGS INSIDE.

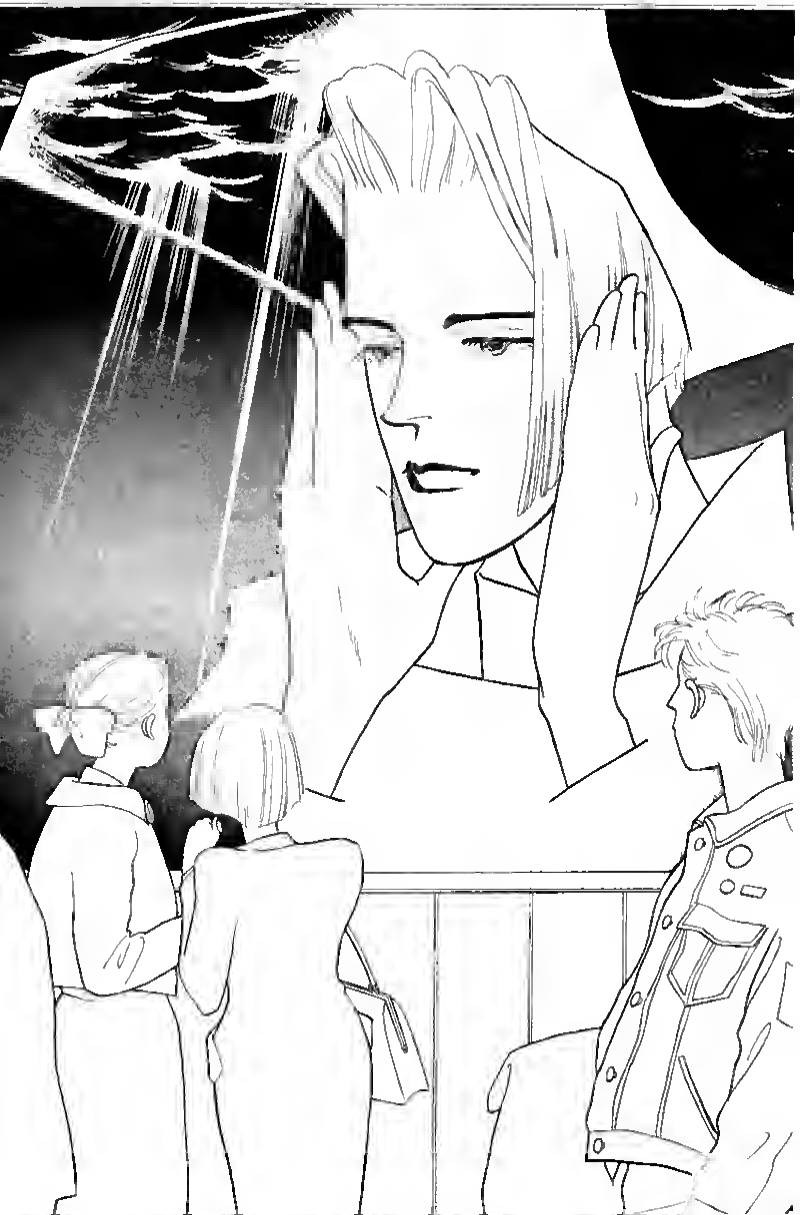
LAUGHING.
AND SMILING,
CHIYAKO WAS ACTUALLY...
CRYING ON THE INSIDE

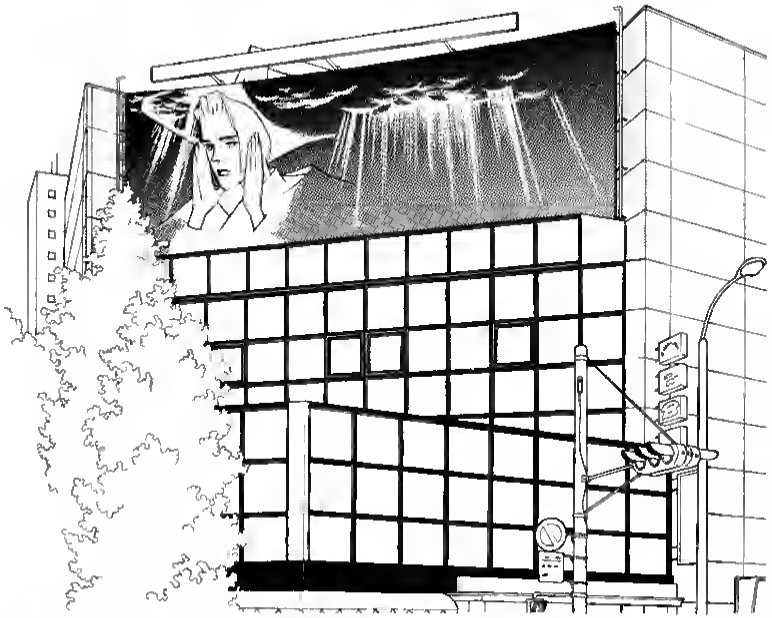

YOUR EYES ARE ALWAYS GLUED TO THE TELEVI-SION
AGAIN?!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE PASSED YOUR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM,
HAVEN'T YOU GOT ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
Shame on you!

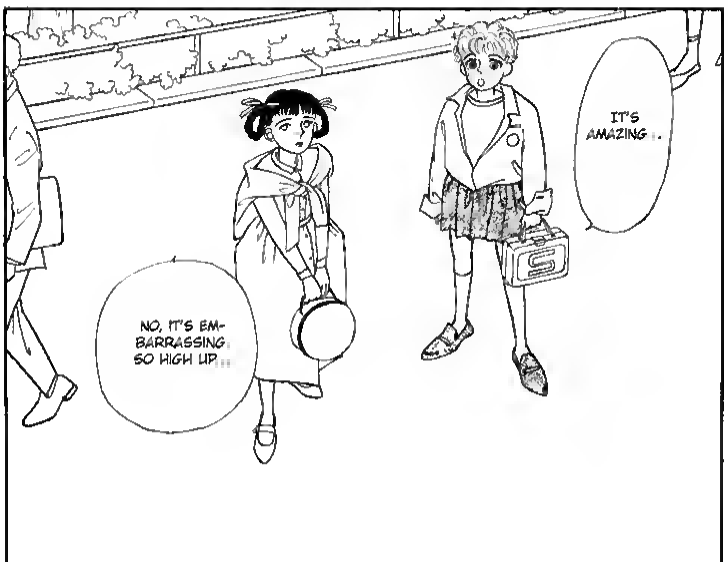
ISN'T THAT RUI-SAN?!
AW, COME ON, SIS! I WANT TO ENJOY THE LITTLE FREE TIME I HAVE...
AH!!
WHAAATTT?!
HUH?

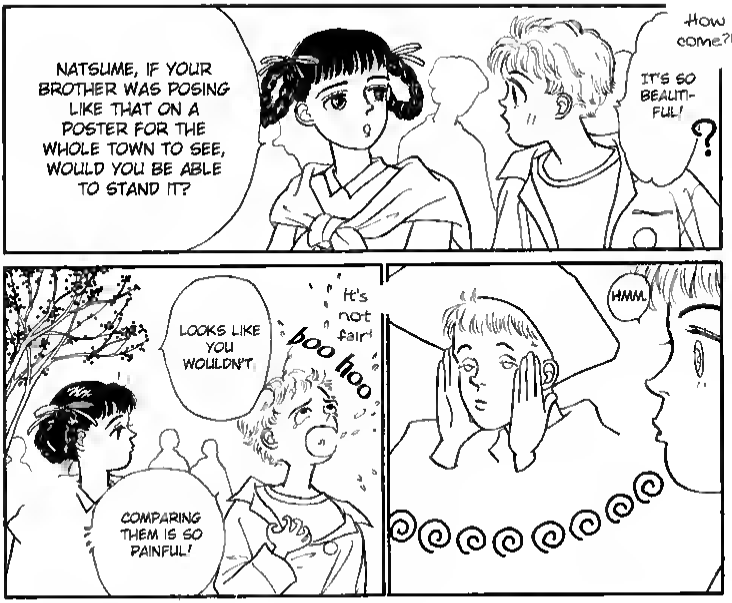
LA·VALLI

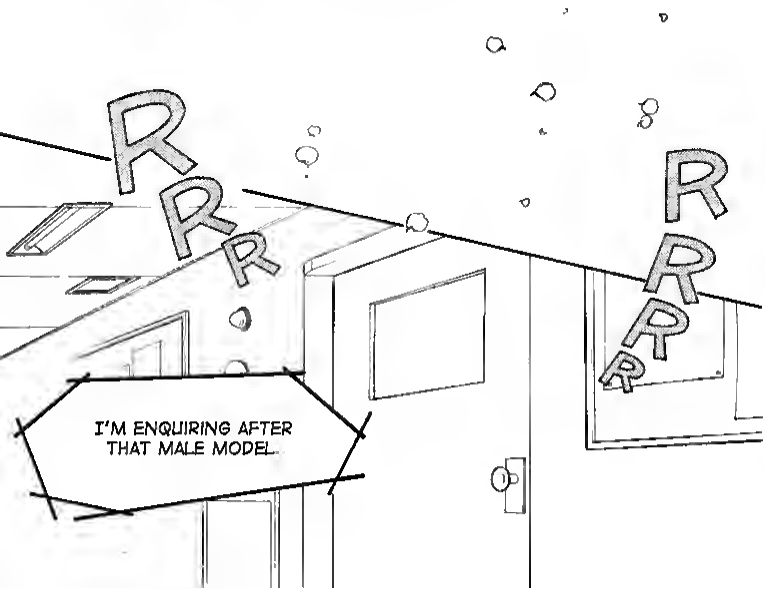

WOOO
OW
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SHARED A BATH WITH THAT GUY ..

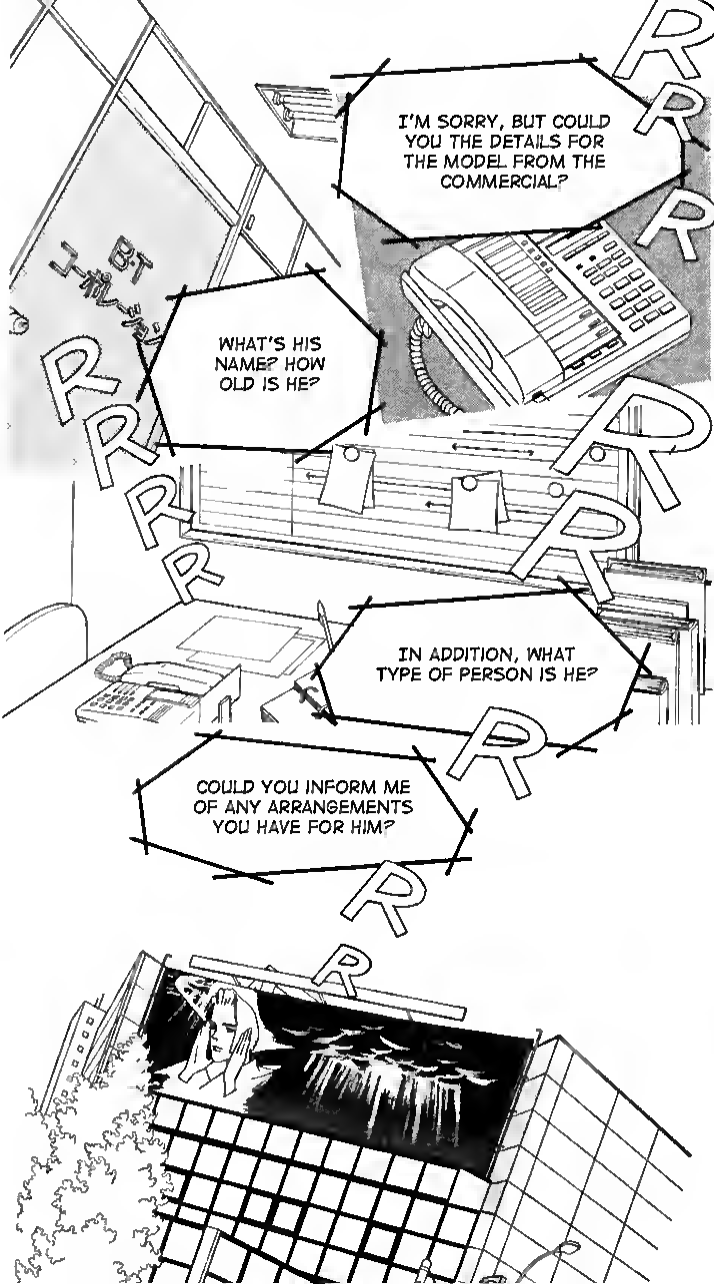





IT'S AMAZING!!
NO, IT'S EMBARRASSING, SO HIGH UP!!

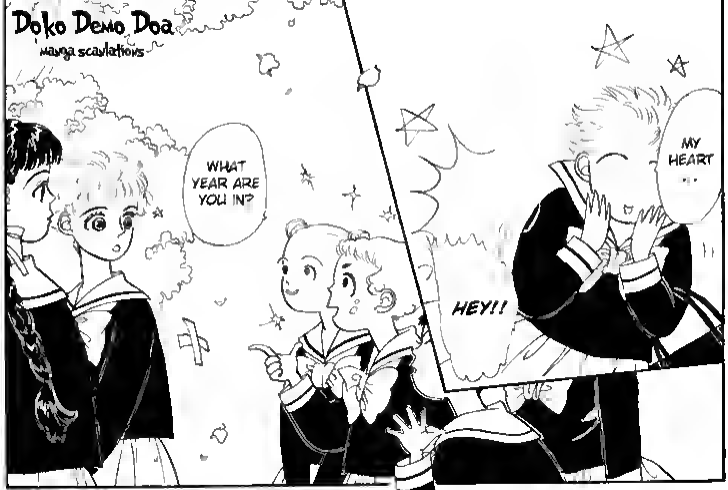

NATSUME, IF YOUR BROTHER WAS POSING LIKE THAT ON A POSTER FOR THE WHOLE TOWN TO SEE, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STAND IT?
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
How come?!
LOOKS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T
It's not fair!
boo hoo
COMPARING THEM IS SO PAINFUL!
HMM.


RRR
RRR
I'M ENQUIRING AFTER THAT MALE MODEL.


I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU THE DETAILS FOR THE MODEL FROM THE COMMERCIAL?
WHAT'S HIS NAME? HOW OLD IS HE?
IN ADDITION, WHAT TYPE OF PERSON IS HE?
COULD YOU INFORM ME OF ANY ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE FOR HIM?

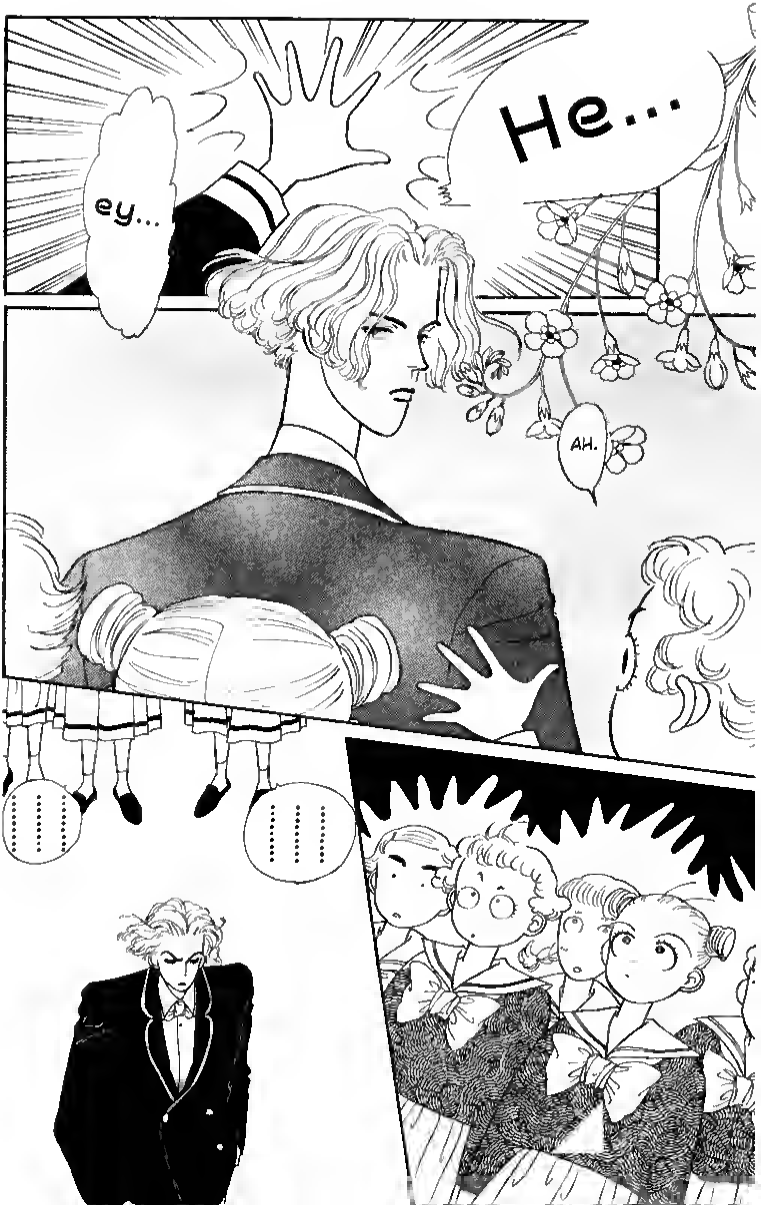
GOOD MORNING, CHIYAKO!

AHHHH, WE'RE FINALLY SENIORS, AREN'T WE?
OUR 'CAREFREE SECOND-YEAR' DAYS PASSED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE
GOOD MORNING
IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE RUI AND I HAD OUR DESTINED MEETING!
OH, YEAH!
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A WHOLE YEAR NOW
HE WAS THERE, SHINING BEFORE MY EYES...
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW RUI. THE EARTH MOVED!
It's like it was yesterday!
Why did you...
HEY... I WAS TALKING ABOUT OUR FRIENDSHIP...


WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN?
MY HEART...
HEY!!

I'M A 3RD YEAR
A SURE
WE'RE ALL FRESHMEN! WE'RE NEW AROUND HERE, SO WE'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU, SENPAI!!

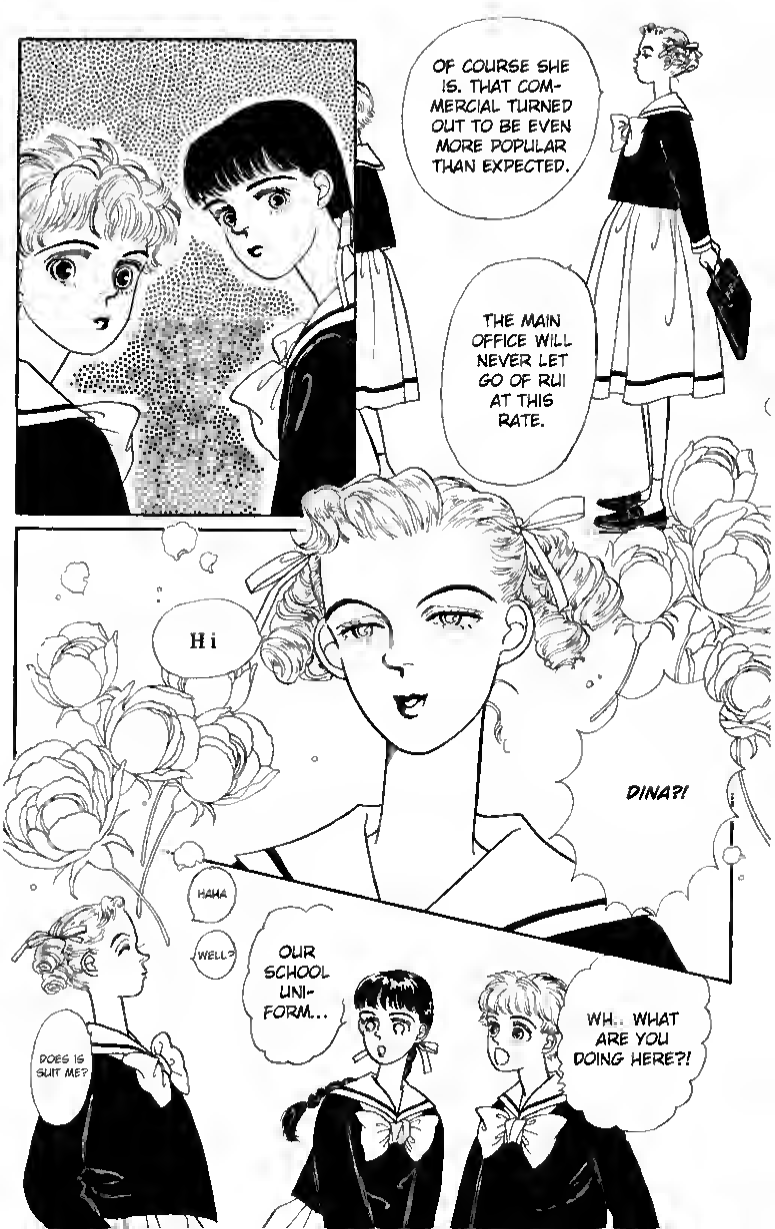
WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN?
HEEEEEY!!
YEAH.
...SURE ARE LIVELY, AREN'T THEY?
THIS YEAR'S FRESHMEN

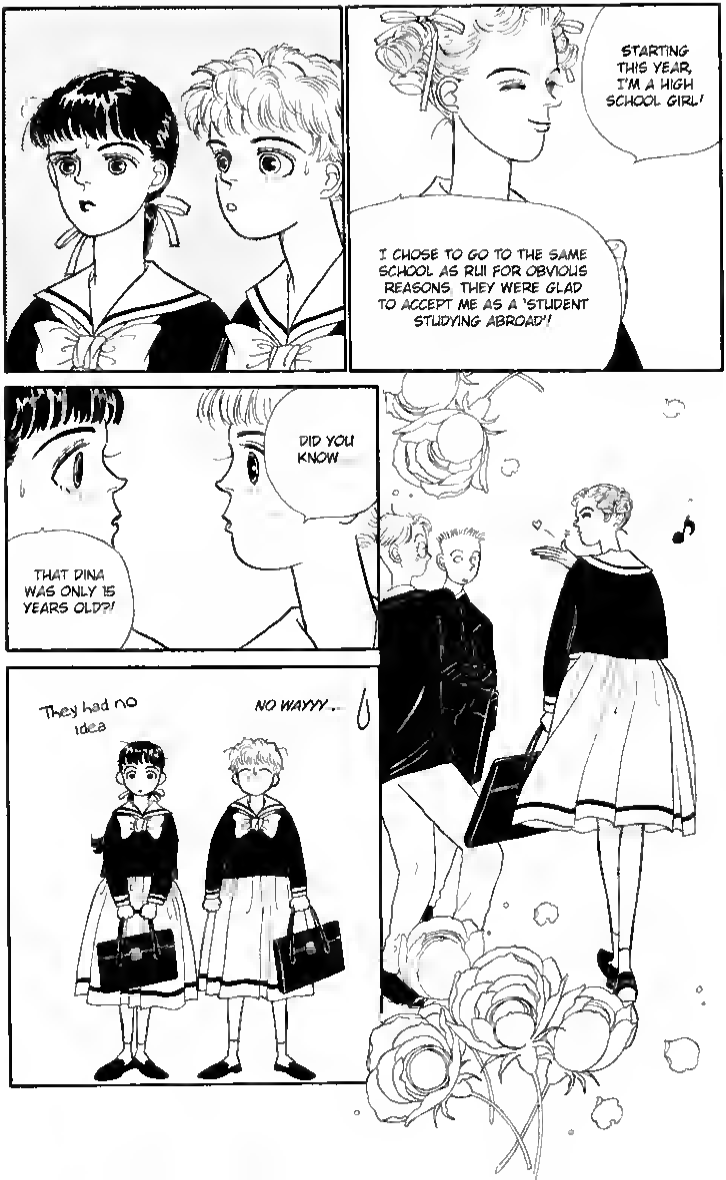

He...
ey...
AH.
.....
.....

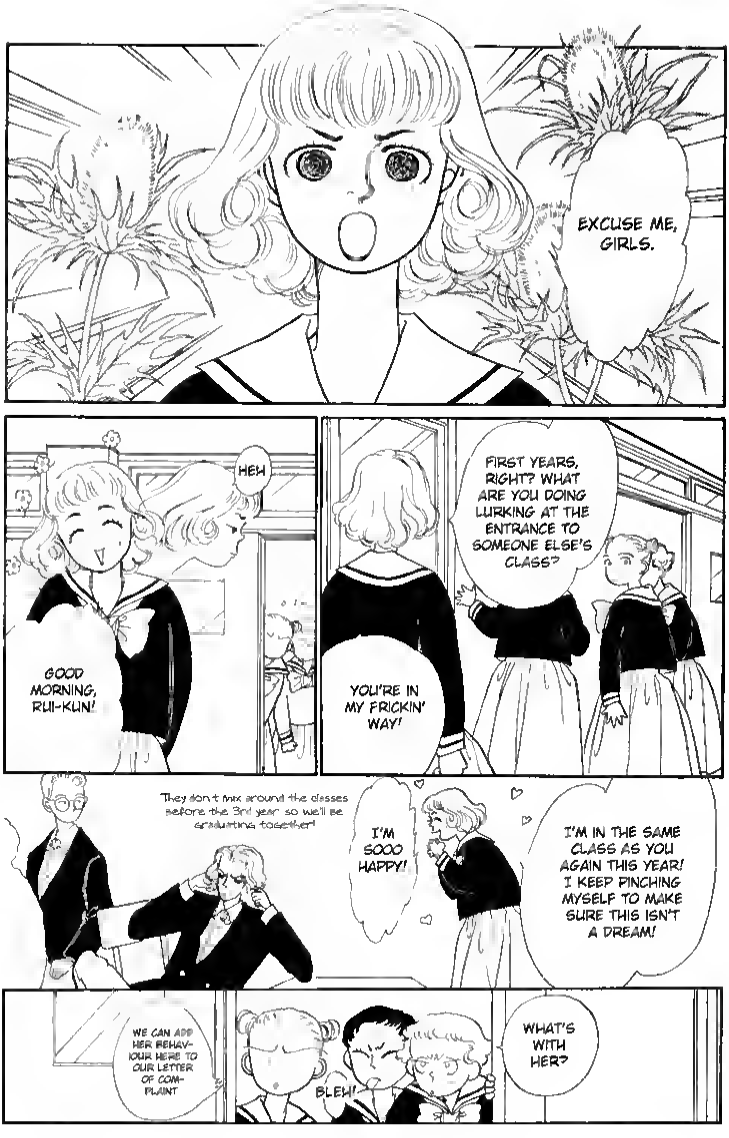
THE LA VALLI COMMERCIAL!!
AH!! I KNOW THAT GUY!!
I RECOGNISE HIM FROM SOMEWHERE...
HE'S... FROM THE...
AH!
WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
LOOK AT HIS FACE!
IT'S THE REAL THING!
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS STILL A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!! AND WE'RE IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS HIM!!
OMG! WE'RE SO LUCKY!
THIS IS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!!

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!!!
ME TOO!
A REAL LIFE CELEBRITY! I'LL BRING MY CAMERA TOMORROW.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN?
HEY, YOU! CAN WE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
AH, DO YOU HAVE A FAN CLUB? CAN WE JOIN?
THIS MIGHT BE FATE! LET'S START OUR OWN!
WOW, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!!

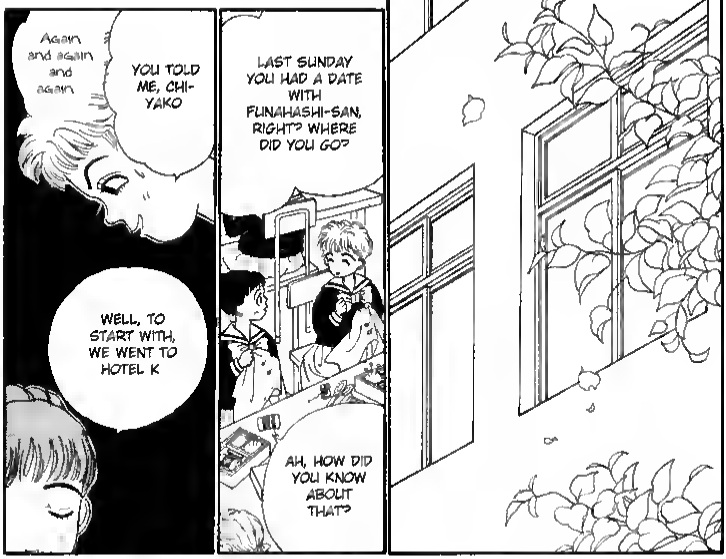
THAT
WAS.
SCARY
HE SEEMS TO BE BAD TEMPERED.
I THOUGHT THAT EVERY FAN WAS PRECIOUS TO PEOPLE WITH JOBS LIKE THAT.
HE COULD HAVE AT LEAST SMILED
WE SHOULD WRITE A LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO HIS COMPANY
HE'S NEVER IN A GOOD MOOD, IS HE?
IT'S BECAUSE THE AGENCY'S BOSS IS COMING ROUND EVERY DAY TO BEG HIM TO STAY.


OF COURSE SHE IS. THAT COMMERCIAL TURNED OUT TO BE EVEN MORE POPULAR THAN EXPECTED.
THE MAIN OFFICE WILL NEVER LET GO OF RUI AT THIS RATE.
Hi
DINA?!
WH.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM...
HAHA
WELL?
DOES IS SUIT ME?


STARTING THIS YEAR, I'M A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!
I CHOSE TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS RUI FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. THEY WERE GLAD TO ACCEPT ME AS A 'STUDENT STUDYING ABROAD'!
DID YOU KNOW
THAT DINA WAS ONLY 15 YEARS OLD?!
They had no idea
NO WAYYY..

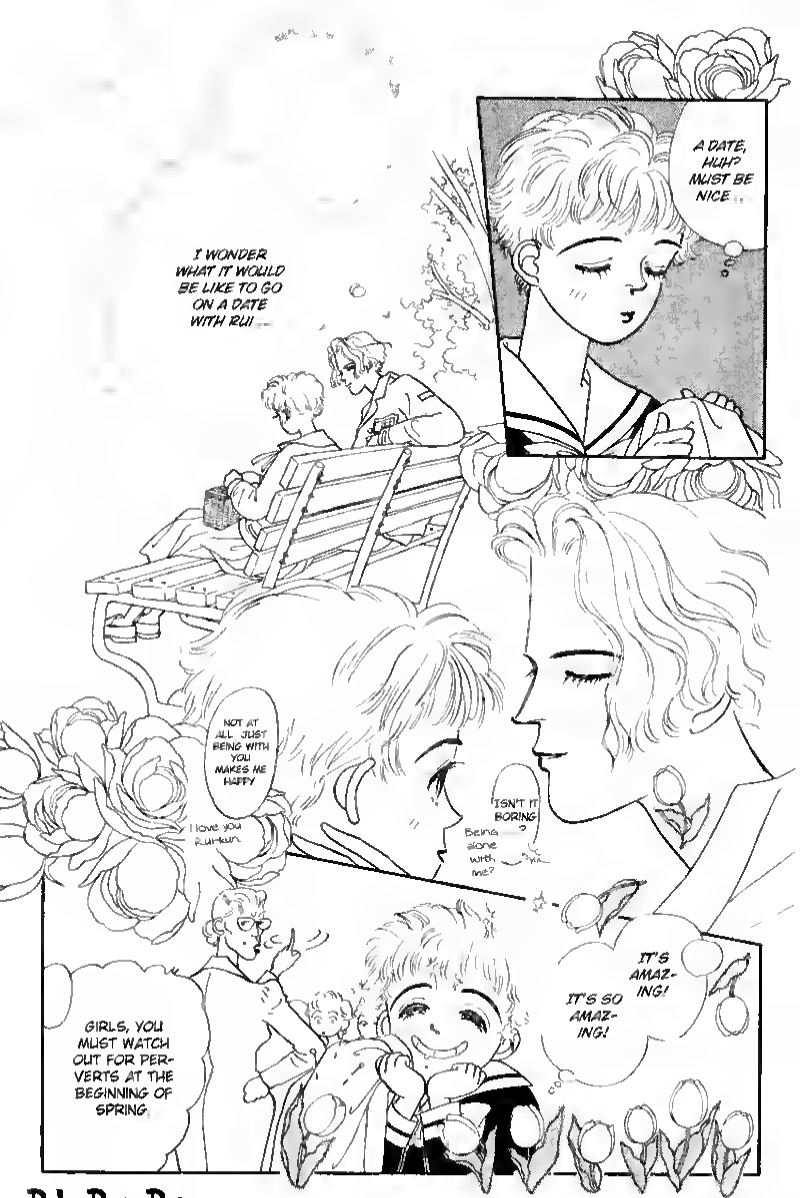

EXCUSE ME, GIRLS.
HEH
GOOD MORNING, RUI-KUN!
FIRST YEARS, RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING LURKING AT THE ENTRANCE TO SOMEONE ELSE'S CLASS?
YOU'RE IN MY FRICKIN' WAY!
They don't mix around the classes before the 3rd year so we'll be graduating together!
I'M SOOO HAPPY!
I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR! I KEEP PINCHING MYSELF TO MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T A DREAM!
WE CAN ADD HER BEHAVIOUR HERE TO OUR LETTER OF COMPLAINT
BLEH!
WHAT'S WITH HER?

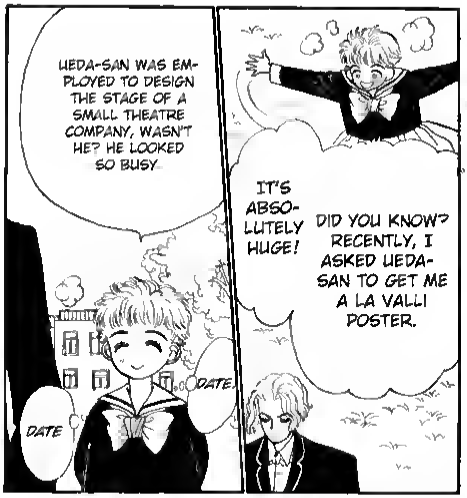
I HAVE A FEELING...
THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE AN ACTION-PACKED YEAR.
YOO-HOO!
what are you looking at?


LAST SUNDAY YOU HAD A DATE WITH FUNAHASHI-SAN, RIGHT? WHERE DID YOU GO?
AH, HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
YOU TOLD ME, CHI-YAKO
Again and again and again
WELL, TO START WITH, WE WENT TO HOTEL K

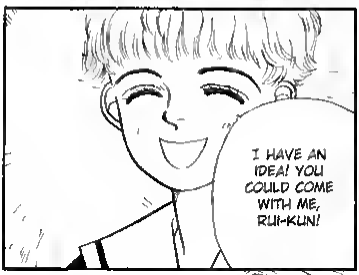
I DOUBT IT
YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'S STILL A VIRGIN
IT WAS REALLY INTERESTING YOU WOULD HAVE ENJOYED IT, NATSUME
WE LISTENED TO PROFESSOR MINAMINO MASARO'S LECTURE ON 'JAPANESE KARAOKE'
HOTEL!

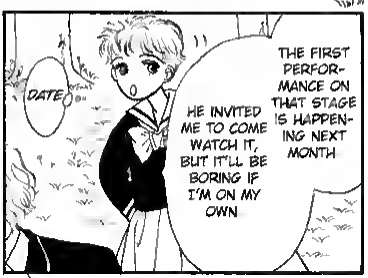
.....
After that we went to the Koga Masao Memorial Hall And then


A DATE, HUH? MUST BE NICE...
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO GO ON A DATE WITH RUI...
ISN'T IT BORING Being alone with me?
NOT AT ALL. JUST BEING WITH YOU MAKES ME HAPPY
I love you Ruikun
IT'S AMAZ-ING!
IT'S SO AMAZ-ING!
GIRLS, YOU MUST WATCH OUT FOR PER-VERTS AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING


UEDA-SAN WAS EMPLOYED TO DESIGN THE STAGE OF A SMALL THEATRE COMPANY, WASN'T HE? HE LOOKED SO BUSY.
DATE
DATE
IT'S ABSOLUTELY HUGE!
DID YOU KNOW? RECENTLY, I ASKED UEDA-SAN TO GET ME A LA VALLI POSTER.

RUI-KUN, RUI-KUN!


I HAVE AN IDEA! YOU COULD COME WITH ME, RUI-KUN!


DATE
HE INVITED ME TO COME WATCH IT, BUT IT'LL BE BORING IF I'M ON MY OWN.
THE FIRST PERFORMANCE ON THAT STAGE IS HAPPENING NEXT MONTH

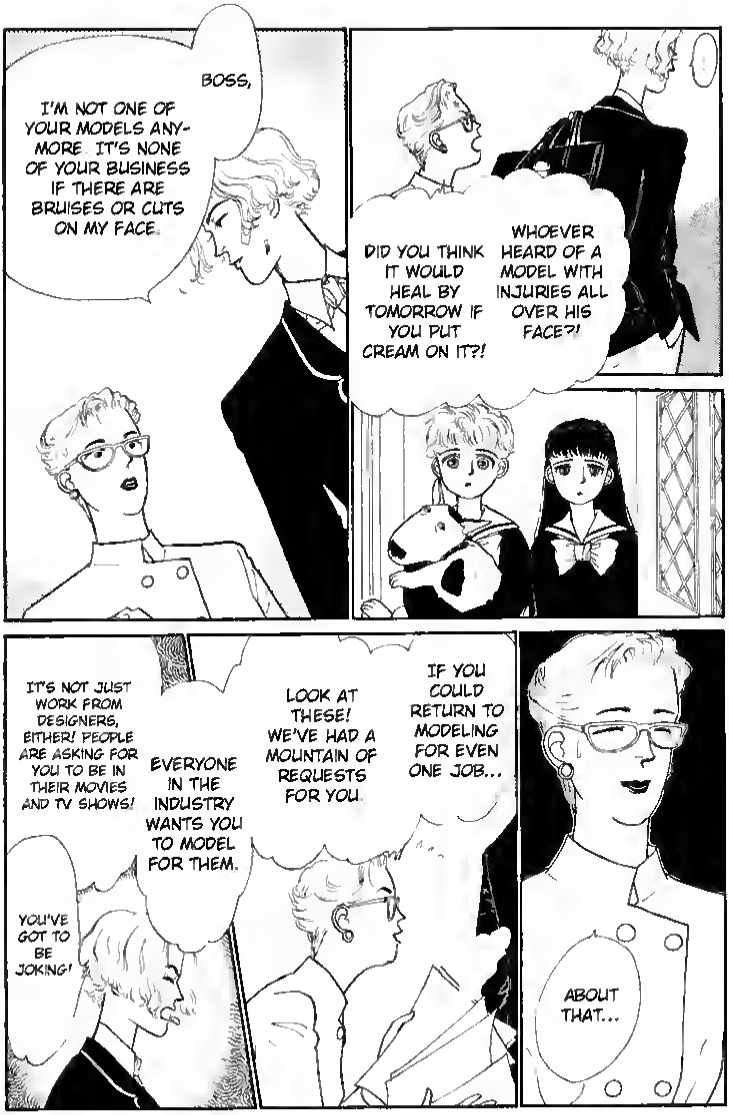
SO BASICALLY, YOU WANT ME TO SIT ON AN UNCOMFORTABLE CHAIR AND WATCH SOME NOISY PLAY FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS?
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?

WHAT A NICE GUY...
IT WAS POINTLESS AFTER ALL
NICE TRY.
DA..
TE..
SORRY, I WASN'T TRYING TO EAVESDROP ON YOU TWO OR ANYTHING...
I just happened to be passing by
TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT A GUY LIKE THAT?
I REMEMBER THE CAPTAIN TELLING US THAT YOU ALREADY LIKED SOMEONE
AFTER THE LETTER INCIDENT,
A GUY LIKE
THAT?!

POP
HIS PERSONALITY IS THE WORST!!
I BET YOU'RE...
JUST INTO HIM BECAUSE OF THAT FACE OF HIS
HE'S BY NO MEANS UGLY, AFTER ALL
HOWEVER...
AND OF COURSE HE'S THE TALK OF THE SCHOOL BECAUSE HE'S A MODEL
CUT IT OUT!!
I CAN'T STAND GUYS LIKE THAT.
HEY, YOU...
I CAN'T STAND GIRLS LIKE YOU EITHER, WHO JUDGE BOOKS BY THEIR COVERS AND THINK LOOKS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PERSONALITY.

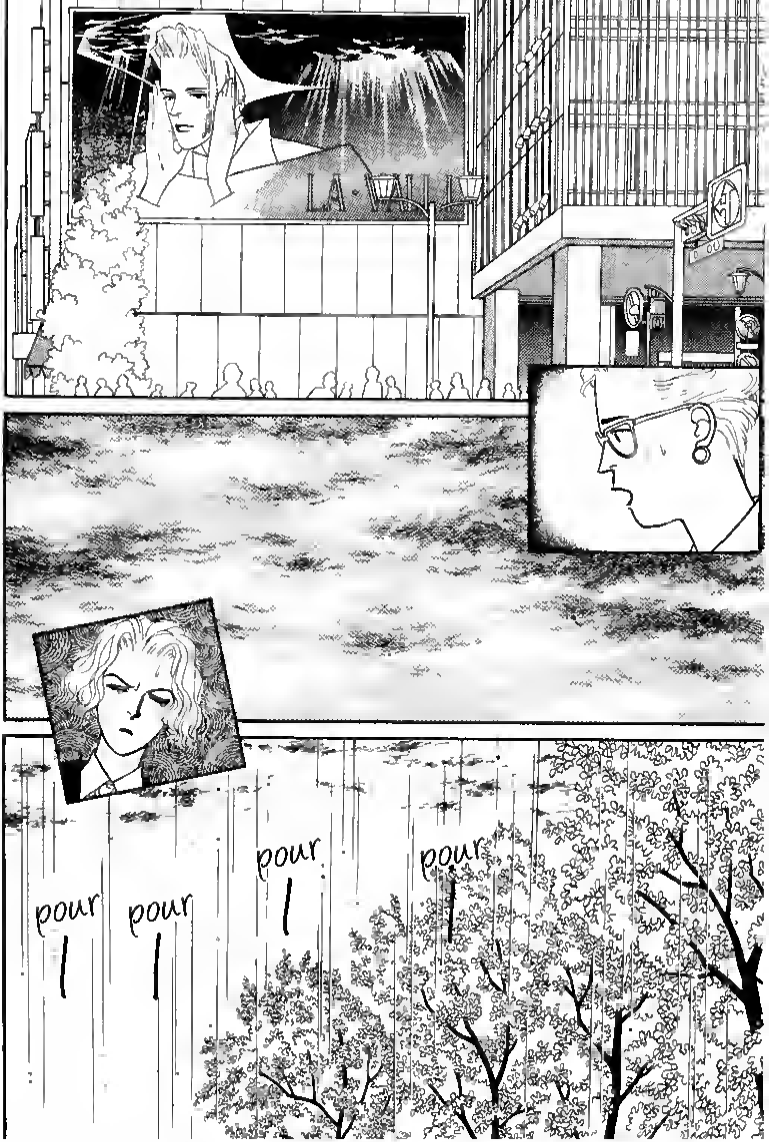
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RUI-KUN!
THE ONE WHO'S JUDGING A BOOK BY ITS COVER IS YOU!
HE MAY BE A LITTLE UNCOOPERATIVE SOMETIMES, BUT THAT'S ALL THAT'S BAD ABOUT HIM.
RUI-KUN IS JUST A LITTLE TOO FRANK SOMETIMES!
APART FROM THAT, HE'S A KIND AND HONEST PERSON!
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE'S IN A BAD MOOD, AND HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO SMILE OFTEN.
.....
SHE LIKES TO THINK THAT WAY
BASICALLY HE'S A BIT CHILDISH

KYAAAA!
I PLAYED SOCCER WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.
CAN'T YOU TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR-SELF?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?!


BOSS,
I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR MODELS ANYMORE. IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS IF THERE ARE BRUISES OR CUTS ON MY FACE.
WHOEVER HEARD OF A MODEL WITH INJURIES ALL OVER HIS FACE?!
DID YOU THINK IT WOULD HEAL BY TOMORROW IF YOU PUT CREAM ON IT?!
IF YOU COULD RETURN TO MODELING FOR EVEN ONE JOB...
LOOK AT THESE! WE'VE HAD A MOUNTAIN OF REQUESTS FOR YOU.
EVERYONE IN THE INDUSTRY WANTS YOU TO MODEL FOR THEM.
IT'S NOT JUST WORK FROM DESIGNERS, EITHER! PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR YOU TO BE IN THEIR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!
ABOUT THAT...

RUI!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK ME, I WILL NOT START MODELING AGAIN
I'M BEGGING YOU.

JUST FOR TWO YEARS... NO... EVEN ONE YEAR IS FINE.
PLEASE HELP ME OUT HERE!
WHY WOULD SHE LOWER HER HEAD TO A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
SO I'M BEGGING YOU TO COME BACK, DURING THESE CIRCUM-STANCES
I THINK THIS IS THE AGENCY'S CHANCE
THE OFFICE HAS NEVER RECEIVED THIS MUCH INTEREST. MY DREAM.
IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE I STARTED THIS MODELING AGENCY,


LA·VALLE
pour
pour
pour
pour

HE HAD BEEN PUT INTO A POSITION HE DIDN'T LIKE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
AFTER THAT, RUI WAS IN A VERY BAD MOOD.
YOU FRICKIN' GIRLS ARE ALL THE SAME!!
YOUR FEELINGS ARE WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
SO WHY DO YOU BOTHER WRITING THOSE STUPID LETTERS?!
GO THROW THEM IN THE TRASH WHERE THEY BELONG!!
Doko Demo Doa
manga scanlations

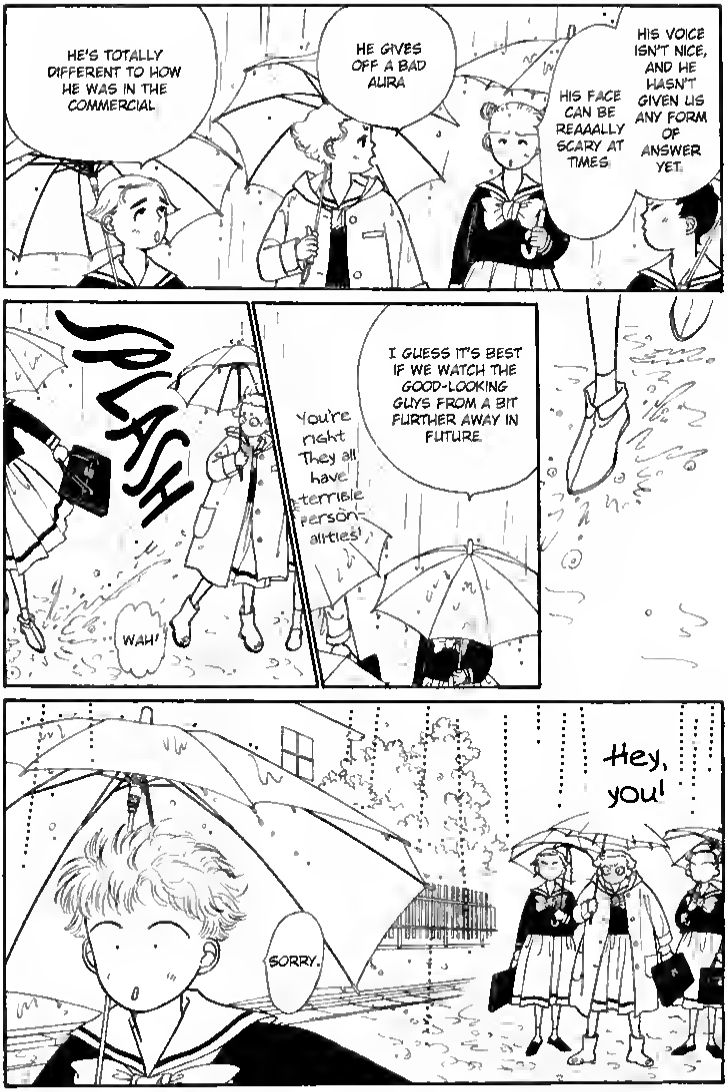
RUI-KUUUUN! THANK YOU, IT'S GOING TO BE MUCH QUIETER IN THE CLASSROOM NOW.
IT CREEPS ME OUT WHEN YOU TRY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE SOUND CUTE LIKE THAT
Those girls were a nuisance.
AHAHA! IT CREEPS ME OUT, TOO!
HE'S SO MEAN!
おあぁん
Sigh…
I HAVE NOTHING TO SMILE ABOUT HERE.
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO RUI'S SCHOOL. I HOPED I WOULD BE able TO GET CLOSER TO HIM.
Reebok

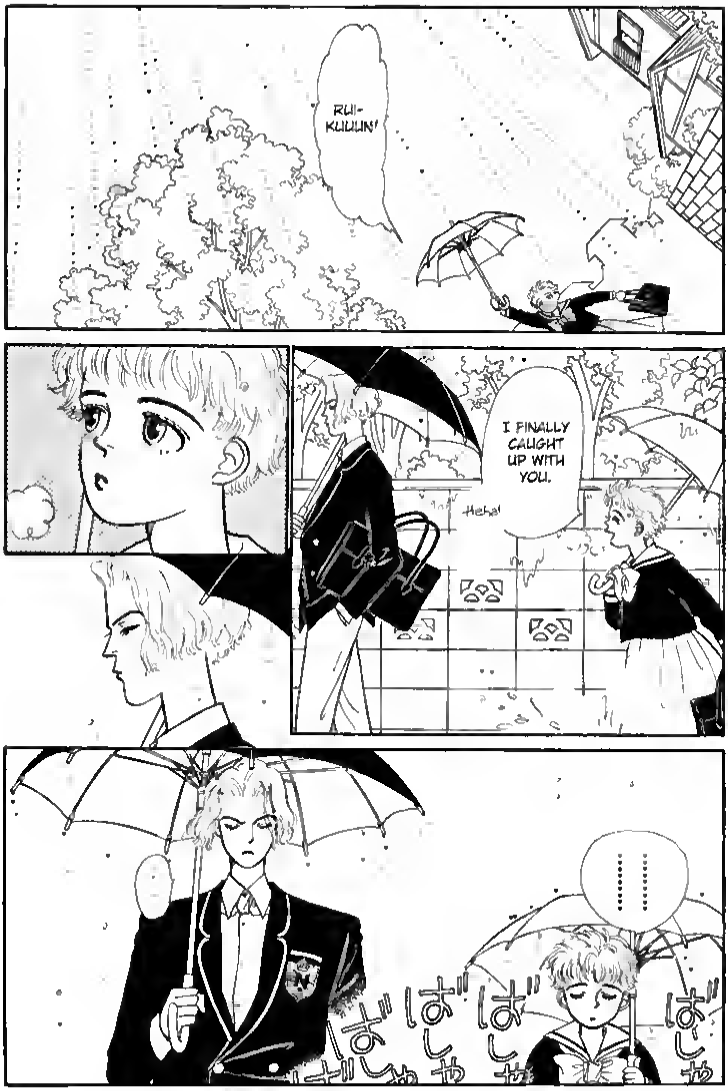
THE AGENCY'S OWNER WON'T GO HOME...
CAN I STAY HERE FOR THE TIME BEING?
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO LISTEN TO ONE OF YOUR LECTURES
STOP
WHY DON'T YOU JUST...
HE RAN AWAY?!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT
EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW WHERE HE IS, HIS RUNNING AWAY IS STILL CAUSING US TROUBLE
CHIYAKO, DON'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT IT WOULD HURT RUI-KUN'S FEELINGS
AHAN
WE KNOW WHERE HE IS, THOUGH UEDA-SAN CONTACTED ME
RUI'S LIFE IS FULL OF VARIOUS HARDSHIPS RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK HE'S THE INNOCENT ONE IN THIS SITU...TI...
CHIYAKO!

CAN'T YOU ACT MORE LIKE A SISTER HE CAN RELY ON? YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT HIM!
YOU ACT SO COLD TOWARDS RUI-KUN SOMETIMES!
HE SEEMS TO HAVE QUIT MODELING FOR GOOD NOW.
AND EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE SAME SCHOOL NOW, I HAVEN'T HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEND TIME WITH HIM
NAT-SUME?
THAT BITCH GETS TO BE IN HIS CLASS!
I CAN'T GET HER FACE OUT OF MY HEAD!

HEY, LISTEN TO ME. IF I EVER GET THE CHANCE TO BE ALONE WITH THAT GIRL, I'LL...
CHAT CHAT CHAT CHAT
I HADN'T FINISHED MY SPEECH!
THAT GUY TURNED OUT TO BE A DISAP-POINTMENT.


HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT TO HOW HE WAS IN THE COMMERCIAL
HE GIVES OFF A BAD AURA
HIS FACE CAN BE REAAALLY SCARY AT TIMES.
HIS VOICE ISN'T NICE, AND HE HASN'T GIVEN US ANY FORM OF ANSWER YET.
SPLASH
WAH!
You're right. They all have terrible personalities!
I GUESS IT'S BEST IF WE WATCH THE GOOD-LOOKING GUYS FROM A BIT FURTHER AWAY IN FUTURE.
Hey, you!
SORRY.


RUI-KUUUN!
I FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU.
Haha!
.....
ばしゃばしゃばしゃ

AH! YOU STOPPED IGNORING ME
WILL YOU STOP WITH THAT ANNOYING SPLASHING SOUND?!
♪
I KNOW YOU'RE FACING A LOT OF HARDSHIPS RIGHT NOW.
RUI-KUN, I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD GUY. YOU CAN CONFIDE IN ME IF YOU'RE TROUBLED.
DON'T SAY CREEPY STUFF LIKE THAT. YOU SOUND STUPID.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANT TO KEEP IT ALL BOTTLED UP INSIDE
SHOULD YOU QUIT AS YOU'VE PLANNED?
OR SHOULD YOU GO BACK TO THE AGENCY LIKE THE OWNER WANTS?
IT'S A DIFFICULT DECISION.
shut
IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A KIND PERSON,
YOU WOULD HAVE COLDLY REJECTED HER INSTEAD OF AVOIDING HER.
RUSTLE
?

DID THAT WAKE YOU UP FROM YOUR LITTLE FANTASY?
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!

REVENGE!
SHAKE
SHAKE
HOW DARE YOU?! TAKE THIS!!
KYAA!
KYAA!
I THOUGHT YOU HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT YOU WANTED TO CONTINUE MODELING!
CHANGING YOUR MIND ISN'T AN EMBARRASSING THING!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT CONVERSATION WE HAD?
YOU TOLD ME IT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU HAD PUT EFFORT INTO YOUR JOB
THAT IT CHANGED THE WAY YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MODELING
AND THEN YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T QUIT

I THOUGHT THAT...
YOU WERE BEGINNING TO REGRET YOUR PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND ATTITUDE. WAS I WRONG?
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND HERE AND LISTEN TO YOU TALK CRAP LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND ME

I JUST..
IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THE MODELING INDUSTRY,
YOU THINK YOU CAN TALK BIG LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S, WELL, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT
BUT I COULD TELL THAT YOU WERE TROUBLED,
AND THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP
THERE ISN'T
THERE MUST BE!!

PROBABLY... A LOT OF THINGS
I'M SURE THERE ARE...
UMM... FOR EXAMPLE...
GO ON

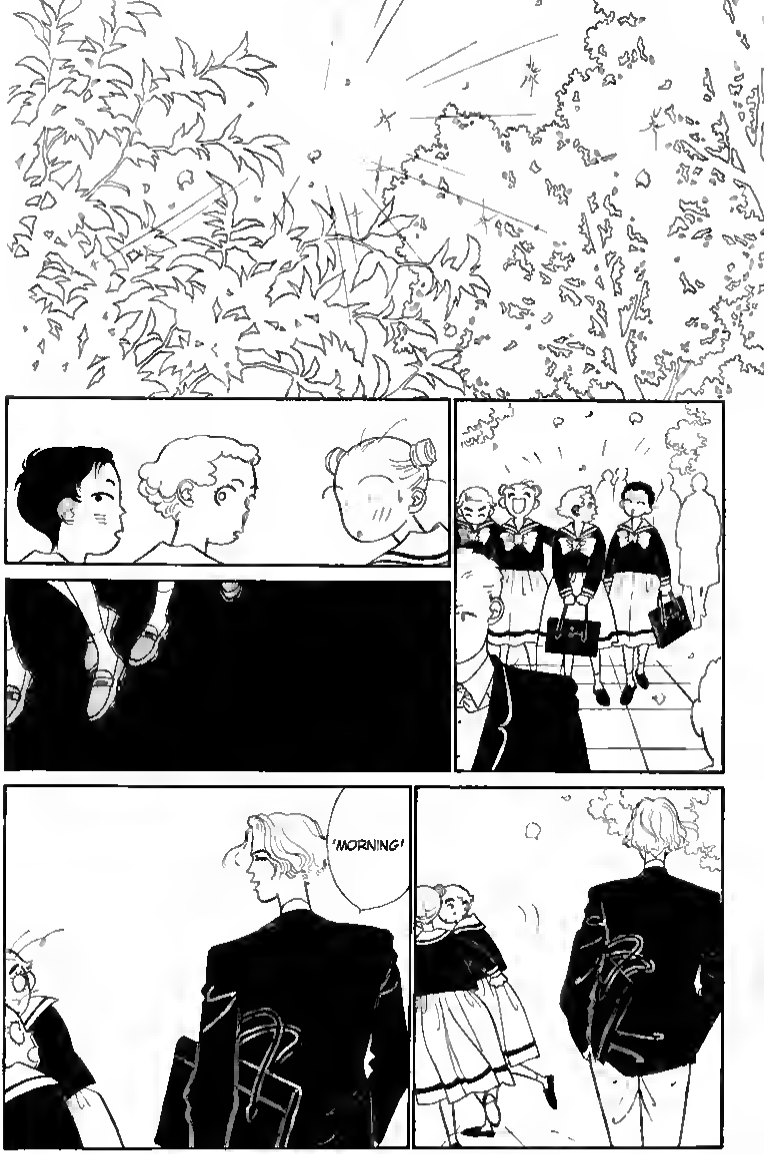
WELL...
FOR EX-AMPLE...
WHAT?
HURRY UP. I'M EXCITED TO HEAR THIS!
Sadist.

CAN'T THINK OF ONE?

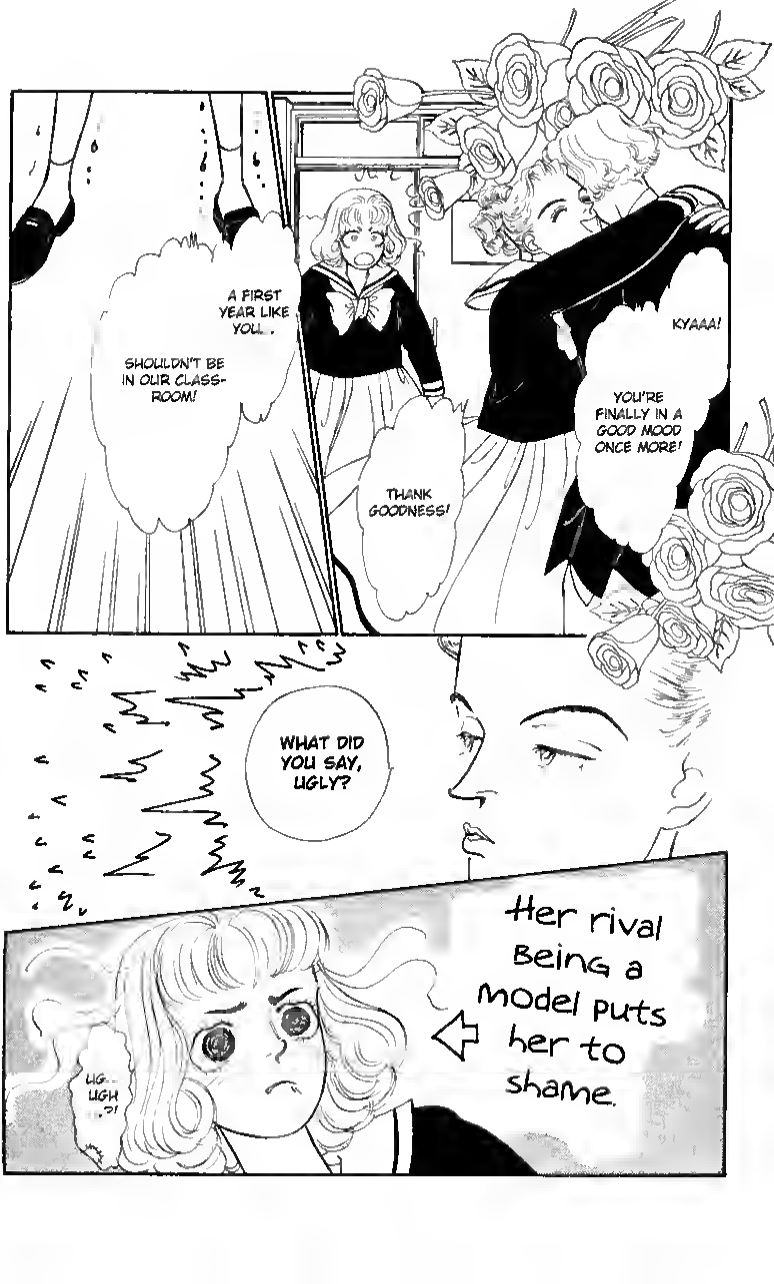
R..
REALLY?!
SURE.
RUI!
THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!

THERE IS ONE CONDITION
BUT...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALL?
AND I'LL IMPROVE YOUR WORKING CONDITIONS.
HOW ABOUT THIS MUCH?
I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR PAY RISE. I FIGURED THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE.
GOT IT


'MORNING'

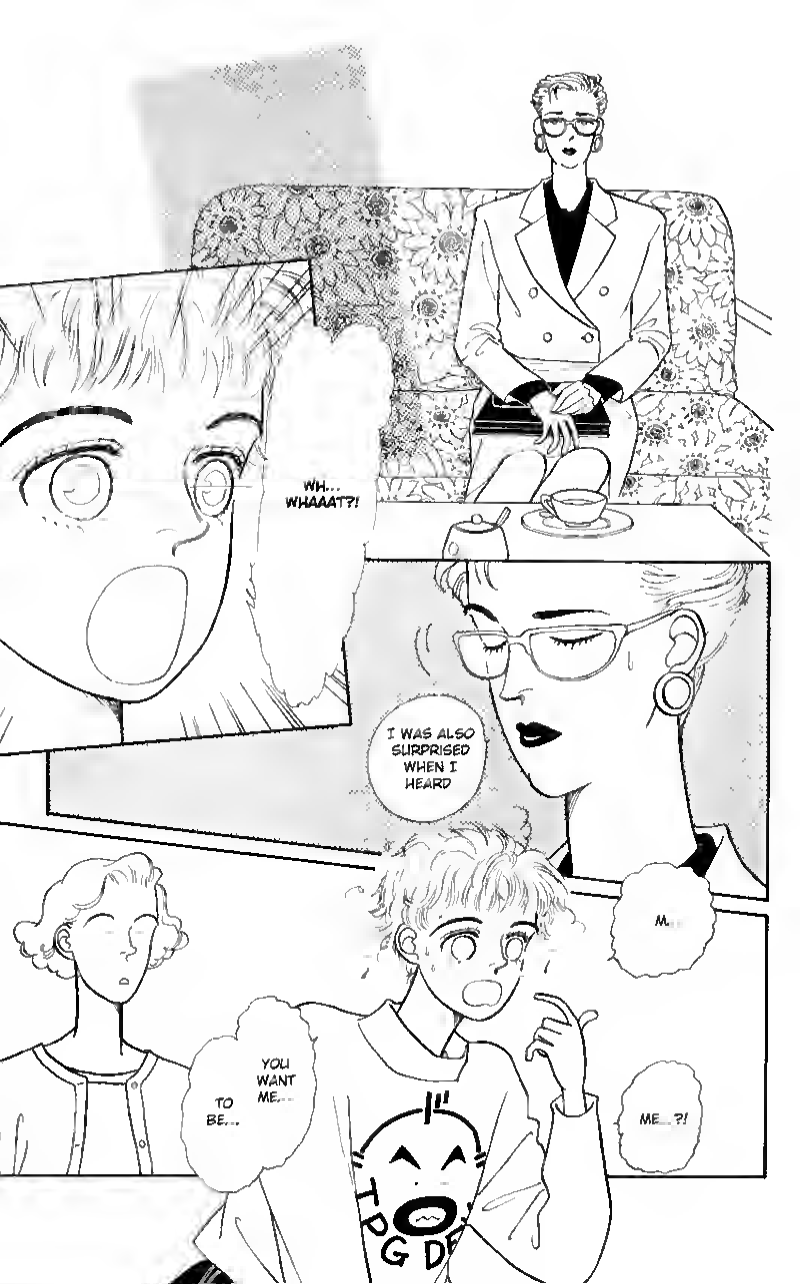
AM I SEEING THINGS?
WAS THAT FOR REAL?


A FIRST YEAR LIKE YOU...
SHOULDN'T BE IN OUR CLASS-ROOM!
THANK GOODNESS!
KYAAA!
YOU'RE FINALLY IN A GOOD MOOD ONCE MORE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, UGLY?
LIG... LIGH...?!
Her rival Being a model puts her to shame.

Dammit!
go away
sniff sniff
MAN, IT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU SEEM TO BE TROUBLED, NATSUME
THE ONLY WAY I CAN HELP HIM OUT IS TO BECOME THE ONE HE TAKES HIS BAD MOOD OUT ON...
?

Igarashi-sensei, this drawing happened accidentally, sorry!

I'M HOME!
DOG DEVIL
THAT SPECIAL SALE ON BEEF HAD ALREADY SOLD OUT
HUH? WE HAVE A GUEST?

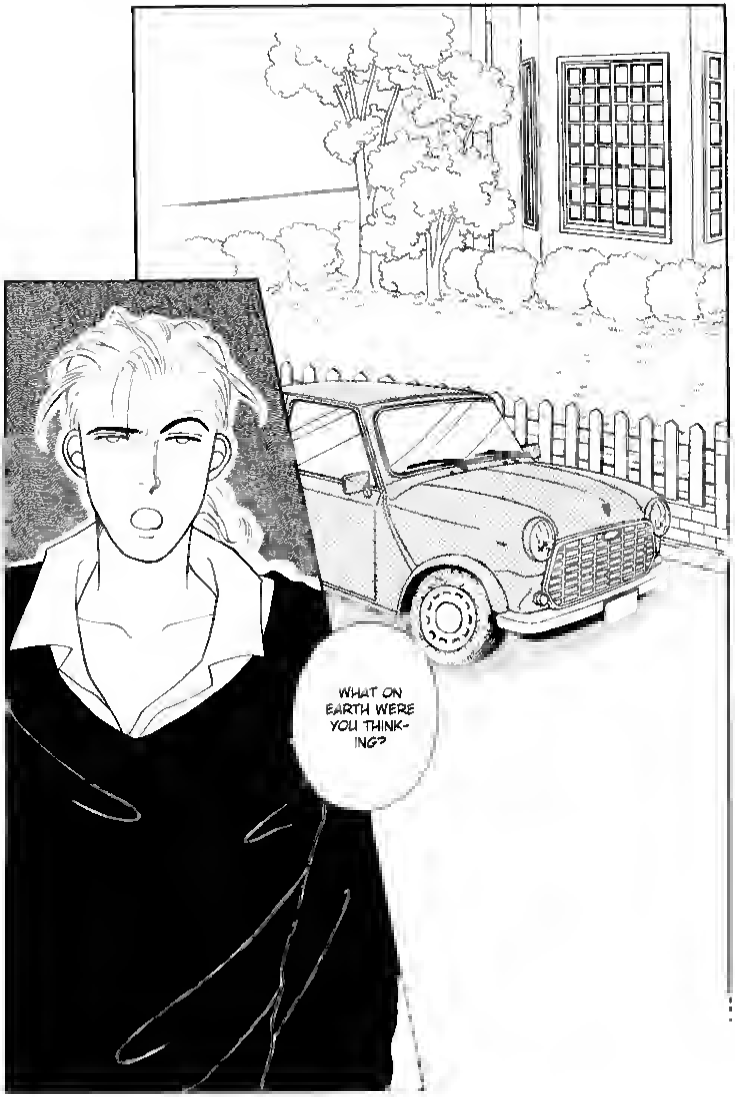

WH... WHAAAT?!
I WAS ALSO SURPRISED WHEN I HEARD
M...
ME...?!
YOU WANT ME... TO BE...

Doko Demo Doa
scanlations

KOMURO NATSUME?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF
HER. WHICH AGENCY
DOES SHE BELONG TO?

A HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR DOING THAT
JOB WOULD JUST
CREATE TROUBLE
FOR THE AGENCY.

A HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT?!

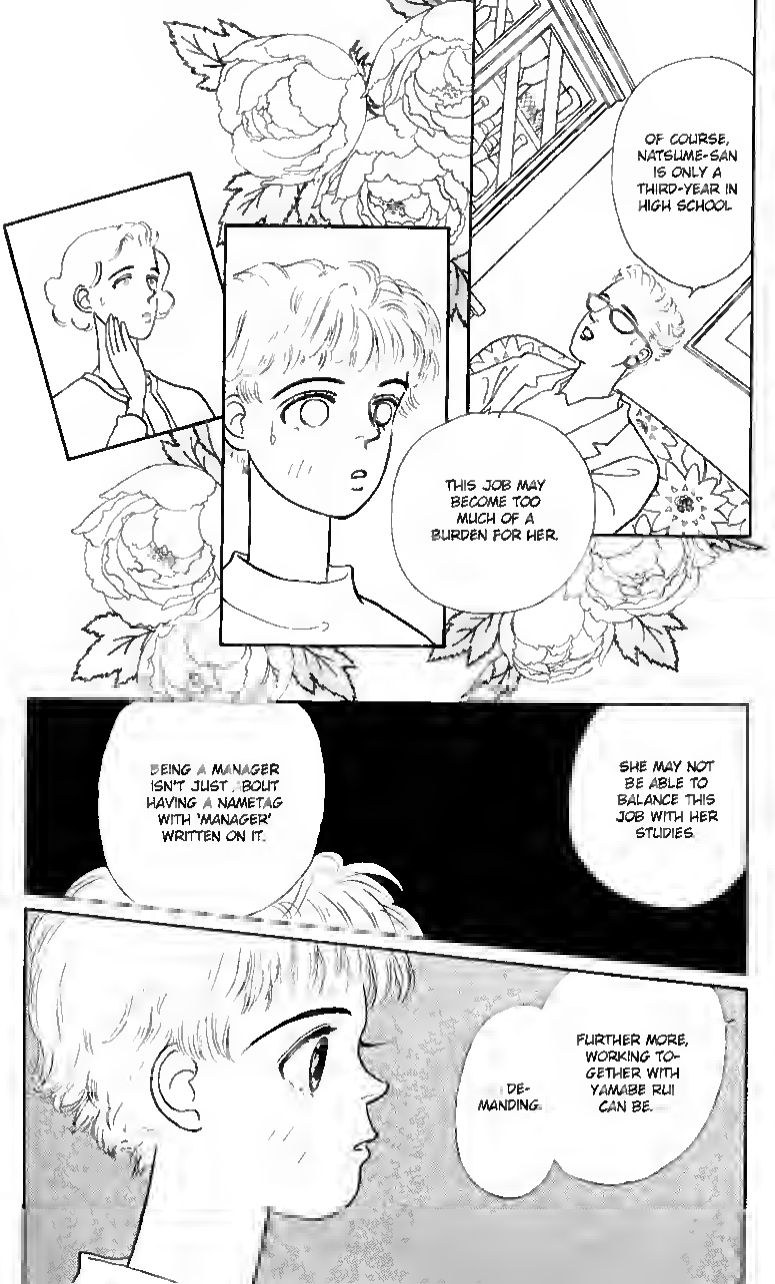

WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINK-ING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THE BOSS
SO YOU FOUND OUT ALREADY?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT NATSUME-CHAN WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE JOB OF BEING YOUR MANAGER?

"DO YOU KNOW A GIRL CALLED KOMURO NATSUME?"
"WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DOES RUI-KUN HAVE WITH HER?"
"RUI WANTS HER TO BECOME HIS MANAGER."
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO BE A MANAGER AT THE SAME TIME! THAT'S COMMON SENSE!
SHE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, RUI! SHE'S GOING TO BE TAKING HER ENTRANCE EXAMS SOON!
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO SERIOUS?
IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DO IT, THEN SHE CAN REFUSE.
NOBODY'S GOING TO FORCE HER TO ACCEPT THE JOB.
WELL THEN,
WHY DID YOU GIVE HER NAME SPECIFICALLY IN THE FIRST PLACE?
!!!!!

HAS BEEN HIT BY A SUDDEN REALIZA-TION...
I WONDER..
HEY!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT NATSUME LOOKS LIKE P-HELPER?
HOW CAN YOU SAY STUFF LIKE THAT SO EASILY?!
NATSUME CHAN'S MUCH PRETTIER THAN P-HELPER!

UM...
I...
OUR DAUGHTER.
...IN THAT KIND OF INDUSTRY...
I'VE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MANY PEOPLE.
DON'T WORRY, I UNDERSTAND

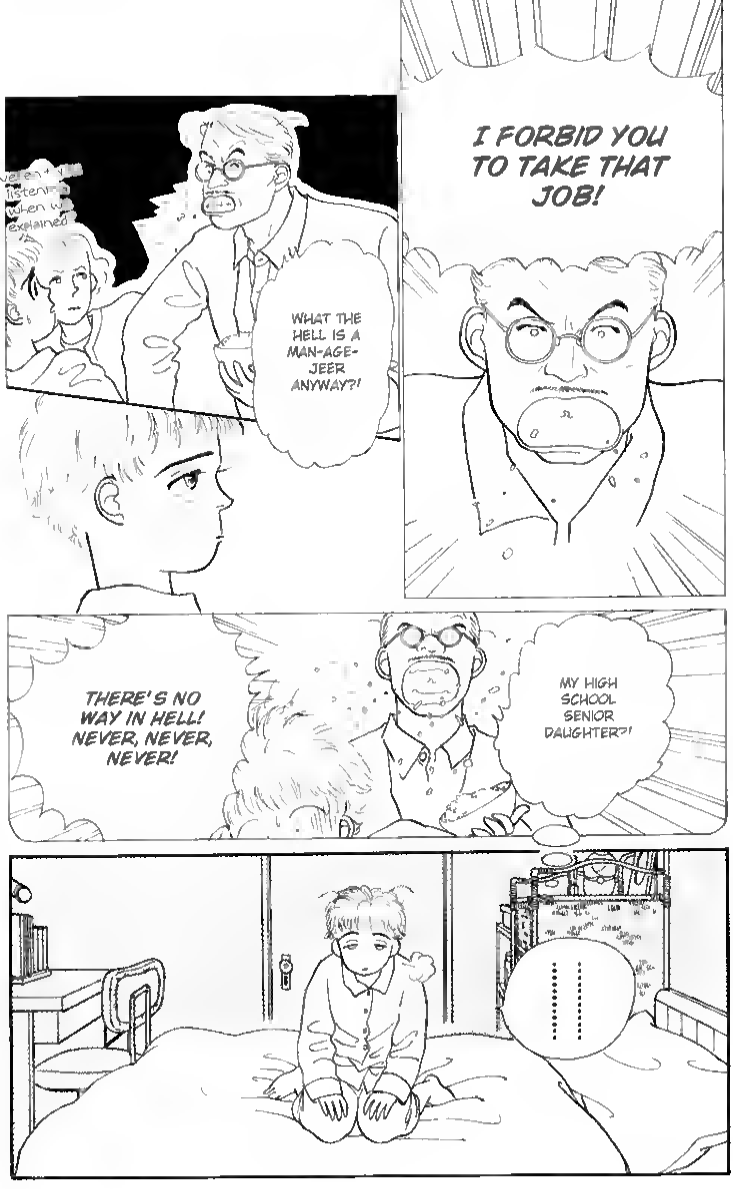

OF COURSE, NATSUME-SAN IS ONLY A THIRD-YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
THIS JOB MAY BECOME TOO MUCH OF A BURDEN FOR HER.
SHE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BALANCE THIS JOB WITH HER STUDIES.
BEING A MANAGER ISN'T JUST ABOUT HAVING A NAMETAG WITH 'MANAGER' WRITTEN ON IT.
FURTHER MORE, WORKING TOGETHER WITH YAMABE RUI CAN BE...
DEMANDING.

NATSUME-SAN, HOW ABOUT IT? YOU DON'T WANT YAMABE RUI TO STOP MODELING, DO YOU?!
UEDA-KUN TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE A KIND GIRL! I'VE ALSO HEARD MANY OTHER GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU!
ABOUT MY DAUGHTER? REALLY?
NAT-SUME--SAN!!
"THERE MUST BE!!"
"I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP."
"THERE ISN'T."
THIS...

THIS WOULDN'T BE A BURDEN.

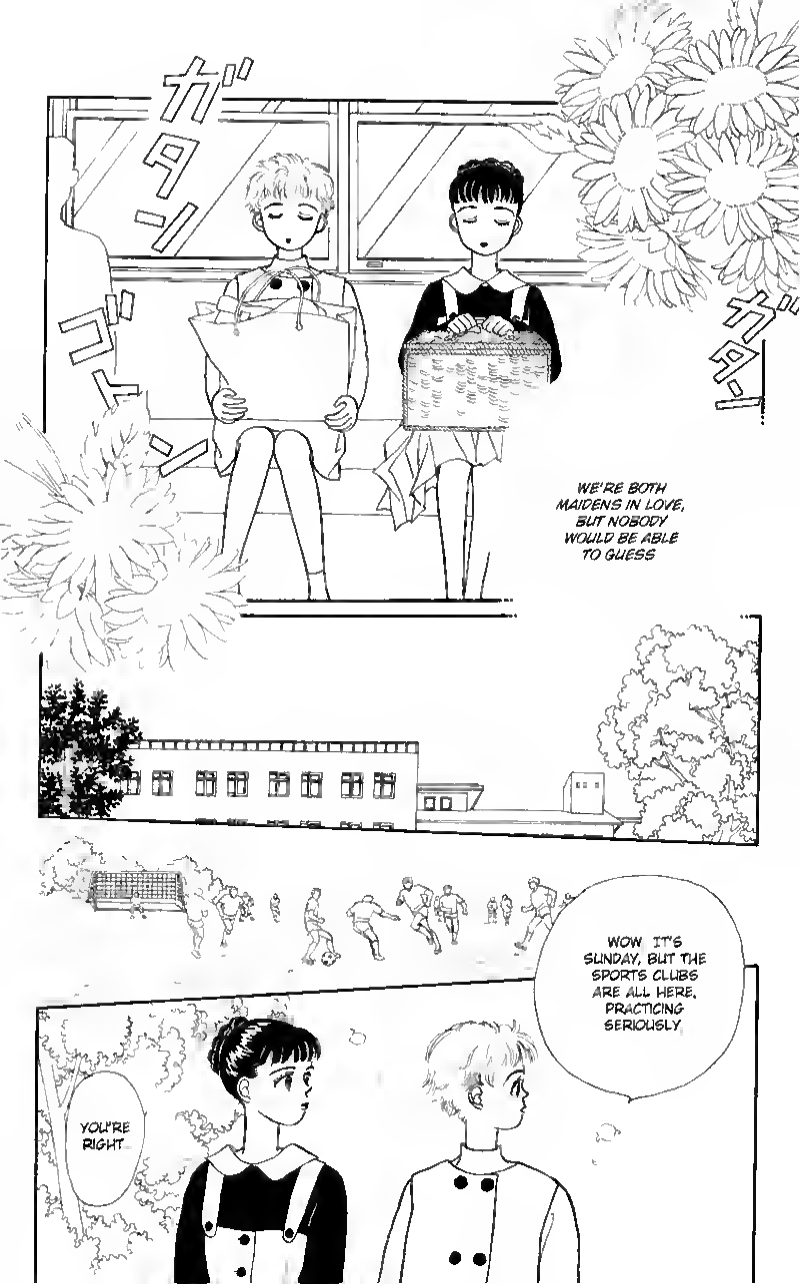
IT SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING THAT I'M ABLE TO DO.

I WANT TO TRY IT OUT, BUT...

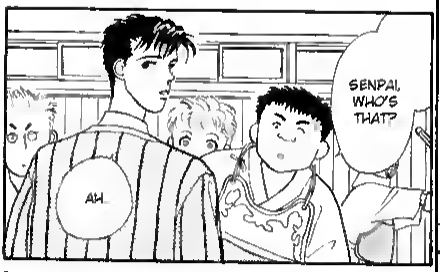

I FORBID YOU TO TAKE THAT JOB!
WHAT THE HELL IS A MAN-AGE-JEER ANYWAY?!
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL! NEVER, NEVER, NEVER!
MY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR DAUGHTER?!
.....

ガタン ゴトン
ガタン
OF COURSE HE'S AGAINST IT.
I WAS SHOCKED TOO WHEN I HEARD
JEEZ. MY BROTHER ISN'T SHY, IS HE?
HEY, CHI-YAKO
DO YOU THINK I COULD HANDLE BEING RUI-KUN'S MANAGER?

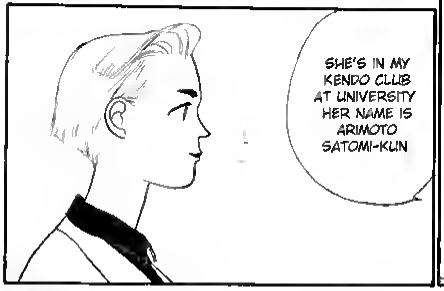
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL YOU CAN'T JUST THROW IT AWAY FOR ONE OF RUI'S WHIMS.
YOU CAN'T, NATSUME.
NO!
UM...
WHAT?! YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT ACCEPTING THE JOB?!
MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT I WILL CAUSE TROUBLE BECAUSE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE MODELLING INDUSTRY.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING A BIT.
THAT WOULD BE AWFUL
THAT'S A MASSIVE BENTO BOX, CHIYAKO. I SEE YOU'RE PLANNING TO SHOW OFF A FEW MORE CULINARY MASTERPIECES TODAY.
WHAT AN AMAZING PERSON
NATSUME, YOU'RE SO SELF-SACRIFICIAL
SARCASM

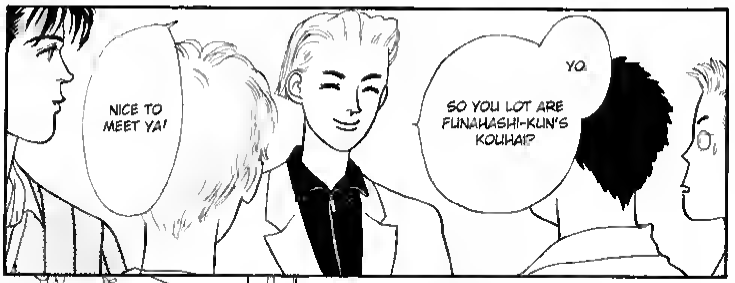

ガタン ゴトン
ガタン
WE'RE BOTH MAIDENS IN LOVE, BUT NOBODY WOULD BE ABLE TO GUESS
WOW IT'S SUNDAY, BUT THE SPORTS CLUBS ARE ALL HERE, PRACTICING SERIOUSLY
YOU'RE RIGHT

SENPAI!
SO FUNAHASHI-SAN IS COMING HERE TODAY?
YES, THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
THERE'S ANOTHER TOURNAMENT SOON, SO HE'S DROPPING BY TO SEE HOW THE CLUB'S DOING.
HEY THERE.
HOW'S THE SITUATION?
WOW.
GOOD! ALL OF US ARE TRAINING DAY AND NIGHT!

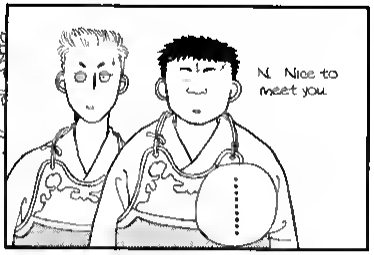

SENPAI, WHO'S THAT?
AH.

Wow. nice place you got here!


SHE'S IN MY KENDO CLUB AT UNIVERSITY HER NAME IS ARIMOTO SATOMI-KUN

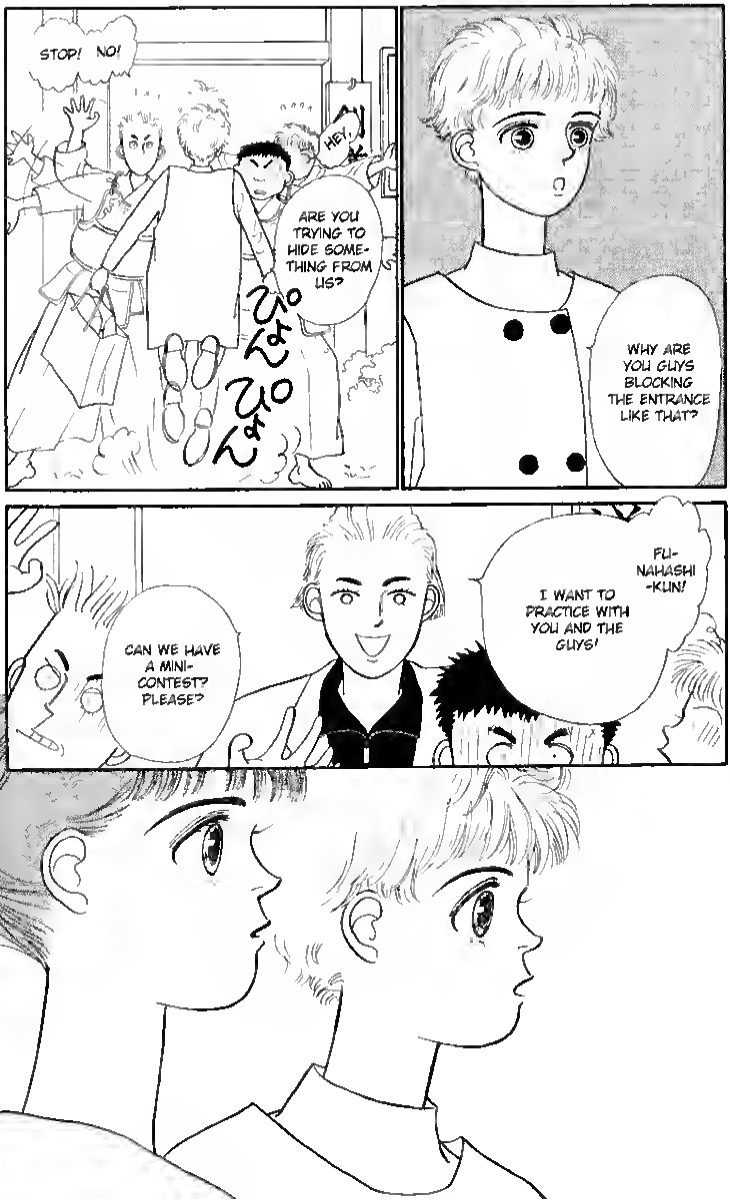

NICE TO MEET YA!
YO.
SO YOU LOT ARE FUNAHASHI-KUN'S KOUHAI?

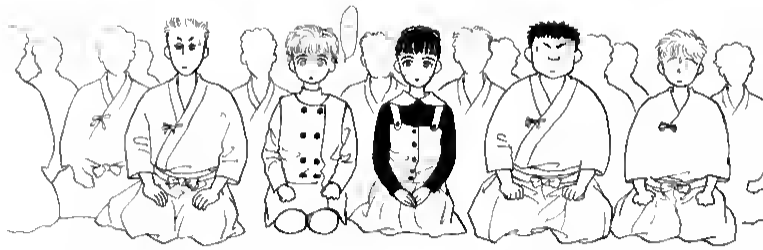
WH... WHERE ARE WE GOING?

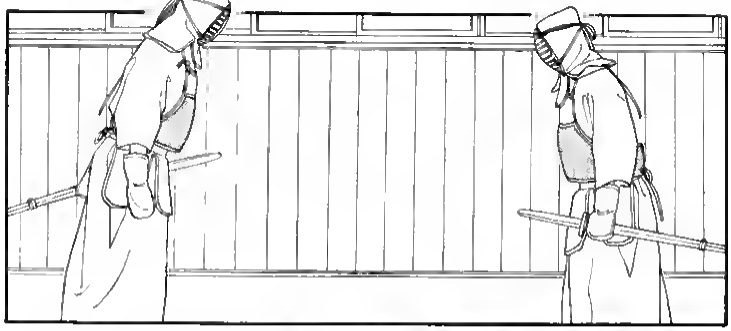

N. Nice to meet you.

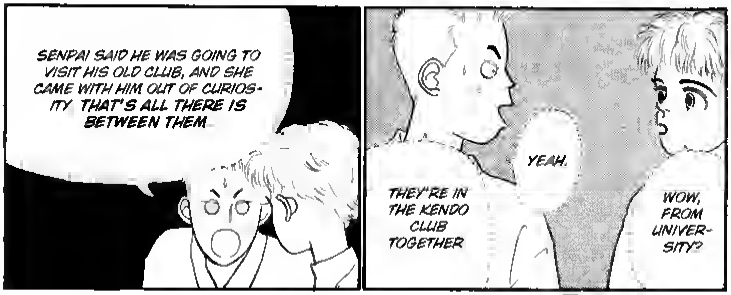
DON'T GO BREAKING OUR PERFECT IMAGE OF YOU.
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE GRADUATION, AND YOU'RE FOOLING AROUND ALREADY?!
DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I HAD NO IDEA THAT SENPAI WAS THAT SORT OF GUY.
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE TYPE TO CHASE AFTER TRUE LOVE UNTIL THE END.
YOU SURE MOVE ON FAST, DON'T YOU?
WHAT?
AH! THIS IS BAD!
You'll break Chiyako-chan's heart.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TRYING TO INSINUATE HERE?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
HELLO
AH, SO HE REALLY IS HERE.

HI...
?
YOU CAME HERE TO SEE ME?
YES, THAT'S WHY!
AND SHE GOT UP EARLY TO MAKE THIS MASSIVE BENTO BOX FOR YOU!
THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO SHARE
TH...
THANKS FOR THAT
GULP


STOP! NO!
HEY!
ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING FROM US?
ぴょん ぴょん
WHY ARE YOU GUYS BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE LIKE THAT?
FU-NAHASHI-KUN!
I WANT TO PRACTICE WITH YOU AND THE GUYS!
CAN WE HAVE A MINI-CONTEST? PLEASE?



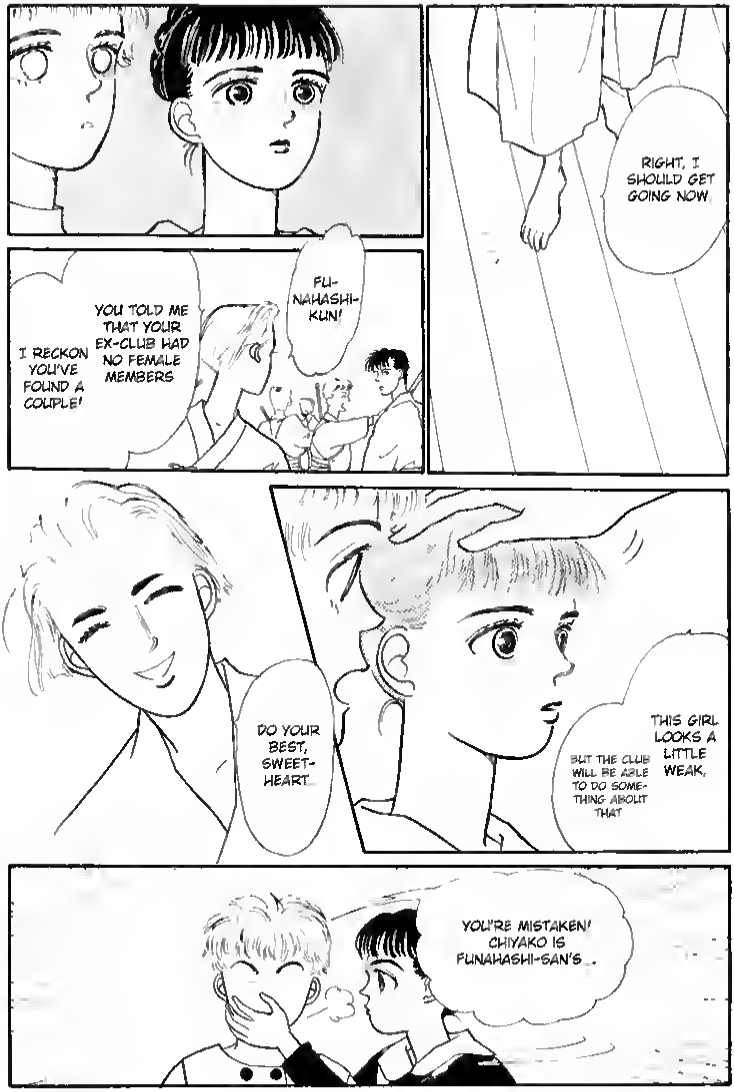



SENPAI SAID HE WAS GOING TO VISIT HIS OLD CLUB, AND SHE CAME WITH HIM OUT OF CURIOSITY. THAT'S ALL THERE IS BETWEEN THEM.
YEAH.
THEY'RE IN THE KENDO CLUB TOGETHER
WOW, FROM UNIVERSITY?

WELL, HE HAD US WORRIED FOR A MOMENT THERE
"THAT'S ALL THERE IS BETWEEN THEM"?
HEY, WHY DID YOU EMPHASIZE...

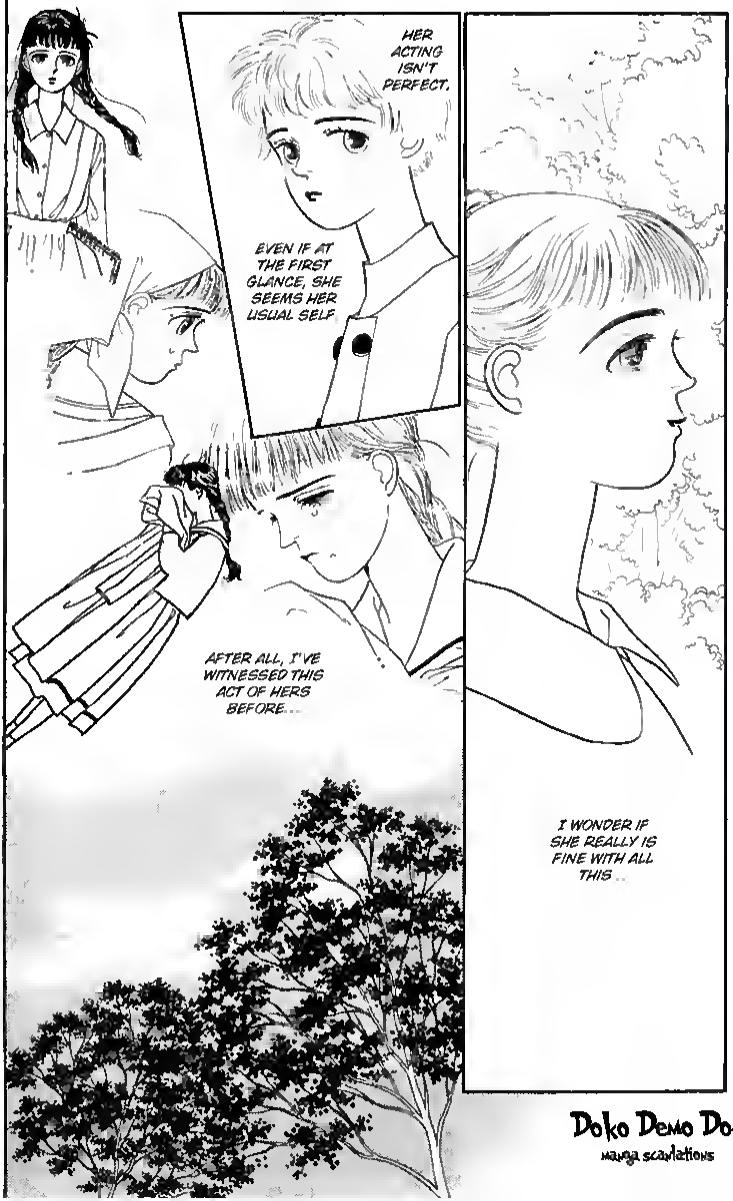
WAAAAAA!
AMAZING... SHE'S EASILY AS GOOD AS FUNAHASHI-SAN

HOW FRUSTRATING I JUST CAN'T WIN AGAINST YOU.
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR TRAINING.
NOT AT ALL! I'M LEARNING A LOT!
AHAHA! YOU'RE RIGHT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT YOU ALMOST GOT ME FOR A SECOND THERE
HAHA, YOU'RE TOTALLY WELCOME! I LIKE HEARING STUFF LIKE THAT.


RIGHT, I SHOULD GET GOING NOW.
FU-NAHASHI-KUN!
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOUR EX-CLUB HAD NO FEMALE MEMBERS
I RECKON YOU'VE FOUND A COUPLE!
THIS GIRL LOOKS A LITTLE WEAK.
BUT THE CLUB WILL BE ABLE TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT THAT
DO YOUR BEST, SWEET-HEART.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN! CHIYAKO IS FUNAHASHI-SAN'S...

I WILL DO MY BEST.
.....
ALL THAT FOOD DISAPPEARED SO QUICKLY, DIDN'T IT?
THAT THE COUSCOUS WAS DELICIOUS. I'M GLAD THEY LIKED IT.
OF COURSE! THE ONLY FOOD BETTER THAN CHIYAKO'S COOKING IS IN HEAVEN!
EVERYONE SAID...
.....

YES, HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 20
WOW, THAT MANY?!
SO THERE ARE FEMALE MEMBERS IN FUNAHASHI-SAN'S UNIVERSITY KENDO CLUB
NO REASON
HOW COME YOU'RE USING 'JUST' IN EVERY SENTENCE?
SHE'S JUST ANOTHER KENDO COMRADE OF HIS NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS. JUST SOME OTHER CLUB MEMBER.
SO THAT LADY IS JUST ONE OF MANY.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
EVERYONE WAS SO HAPPY THAT I BROUGHT SOME FOOD
I SHOULD MAKE SOMETHING EVEN BETTER NEXT TIME


HER ACTING ISN'T PERFECT.
EVEN IF AT THE FIRST GLANCE, SHE SEEMS HER USUAL SELF.
AFTER ALL, I'VE WITNESSED THIS ACT OF HERS BEFORE...
I WONDER IF SHE REALLY IS FINE WITH ALL THIS...

Doko Demo Doa
manga scanlations

CHI-YAKO?
AH
OH... HI

HUH?
HAVE YOU REFUSED THE JOB OFFER YET?
YOU'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
SEEMS LIKE IT.
SO YOU REALLY ARE QUITTING MODELLING?

THAT WAS INDEED MY CONDITION
BUT IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, THEN DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I guess you're right
BUT IF I BECOME YOUR MANAGER, YOU WON'T QUIT?
AHAHAHA, NO, I WON'T.
TELL ME, RUI-KUN.
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR MANAGER?

?
?
What are you doing?
?
THE RESEMBLANCE IS UNCANNY SHE'S LIKE P-HELPER 2

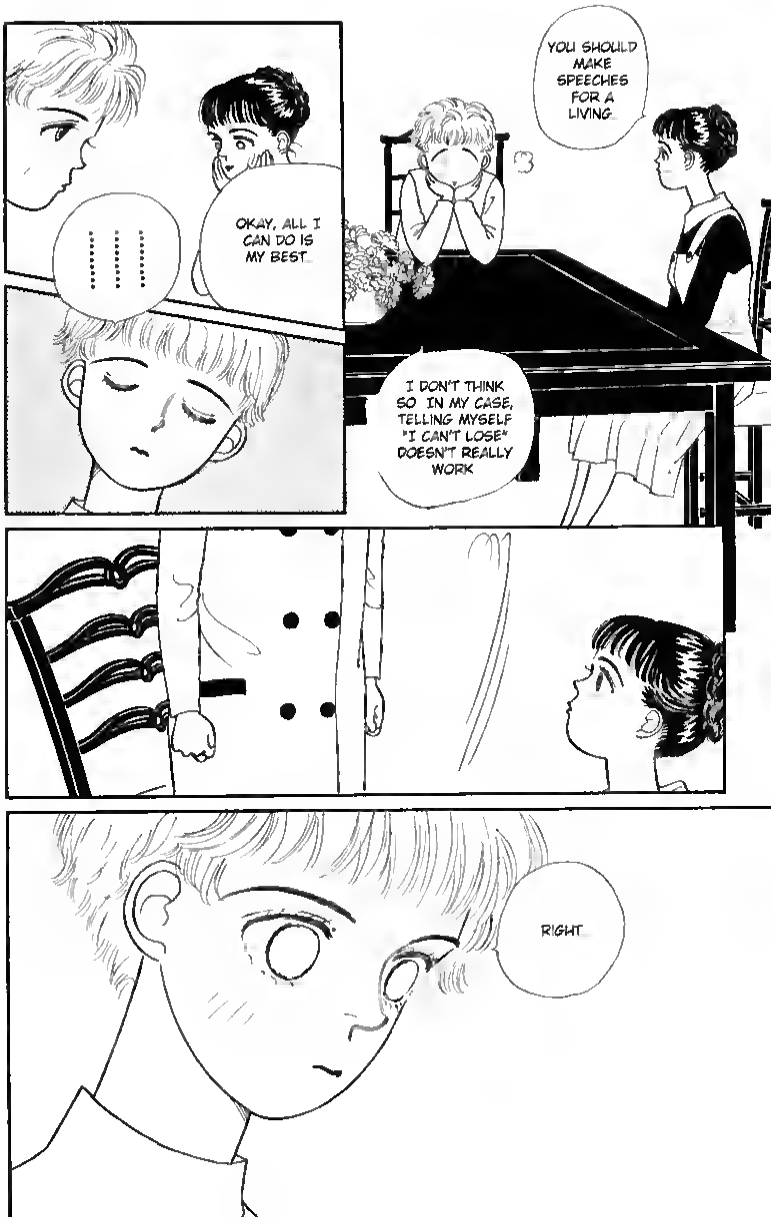
SHE'S ALL SPACED OUT IN THE DINING ROOM.
TH... TH... THAT'S RIGHT I CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR CHIYAKO
SHE WENT TO GET SOME JUICE AND NEVER CAME BACK I WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO...
AH! CHIYAKO!
ACTUALLY.. MAYBE NOT
AS I THOUGHT
SHE'S BEING SO DISTANT
WHY DOESN'T SHE BE HONEST INSTEAD OF PUTTING ON THAT ACT?
SHE IS TROUBLED BY IT AFTER ALL

HOW COME?
A LOT OF THINGS CAN BE SOLVED AFTER DISCUSSING IT WITH A FRIEND
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER.
UNTIL YOU, CHIYAKO HASN'T EVER HAD A CLOSE FRIEND.
THE IDEA OF TELLING SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT HER TROUBLES HAS PROBABLY NEVER CROSSED HER MIND.

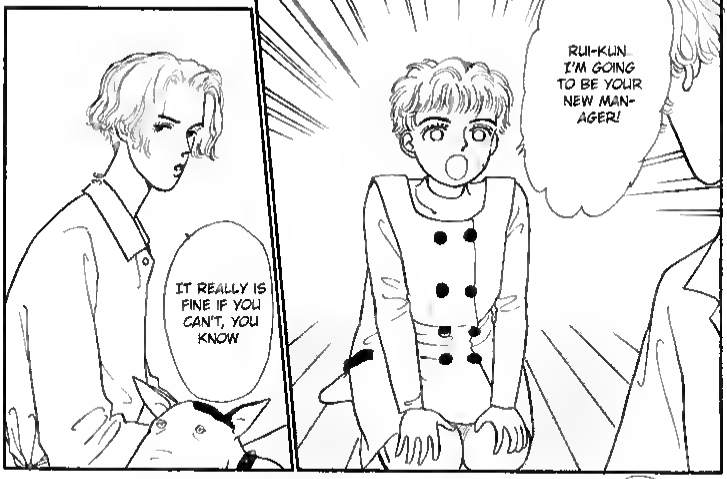
CHIYAKO!
KYA!
CHIYAKO?
YOU'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT HER.
THAT WOMAN FROM THE KENDO CLUB
YOU GAVE ME A FRIGHT.
WHY DID YOU DO THAT, NATSUME?
DON'T TRY TO HIDE IT FROM ME!
EH? DON'T BE SILLY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'RE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO KEEPS ALL HER WORRIES TO HERSELF,
AND PRETENDS NOT TO BE UPSET.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY BEING HONEST AND SHARING THEM WITH YOUR FRIENDS?
I...
AM A LITTLE BIT JEALOUS... OF ARIMOTO-SAN
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL
SHE'S IN THE SAME CLUB AS FUNAHASHI-SAN, AND SHE'S REALLY STRONG
WHAT CAN I, SOMEONE LIKE ME DO?
MY REFLEXES ARE TERRIBLY SLOW.
WHAT?!
I have always always, always been at the bottom of the P.E. class

Spoken like an expert (on unrequited love)
I WON'T LET YOU PUT YOURSELF DOWN LIKE THAT!
WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE, "SOMEONE LIKE ME" IS A TABOO WORD
CHIYAKO IS CHIYAKO.
AND FUNAHASHI-SAN LOVES CHIYAKO AS SHE IS
HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.
IF THE GUY YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH REALLY IS AS WONDERFUL AS YOU THINK,
HE WON'T FAIL TO NOTICE WHAT A WONDERFUL GIRL YOU ARE! YOU CAN'T LOSE!
Got it? It's like that.


YOU SHOULD MAKE SPEECHES FOR A LIVING...
I DON'T THINK SO IN MY CASE, TELLING MYSELF "I CAN'T LOSE" DOESN'T REALLY WORK
OKAY, ALL I CAN DO IS MY BEST...
.....
RIGHT...

I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE UP THE JOB OF RUI-KUN'S MANAGER.
WH.. WHAT?!
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PERSUADE THEM!
BUT YOUR PARENTS HAVE FORBIDDEN IT!
NATSUME...


RUI-KUN, I'M GOING TO BE YOUR NEW MANAGER!
IT REALLY IS FINE IF YOU CAN'T, YOU KNOW

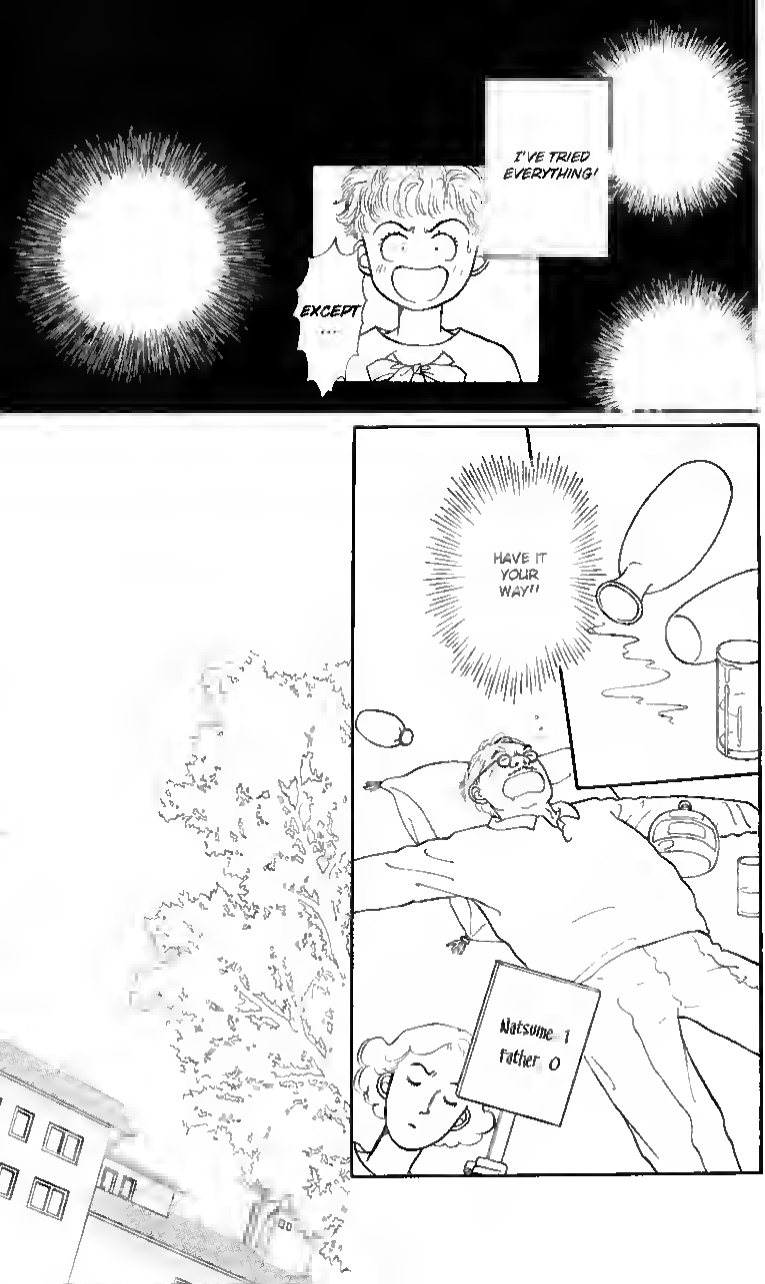
I'M SORRY THAT MY ANSWER TOOK SO LONG...
I'LL TRY HARD NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE
I KNOW I CAN DO IT!
MAYBE IT REALLY IS TOO LATE AFTER ALL

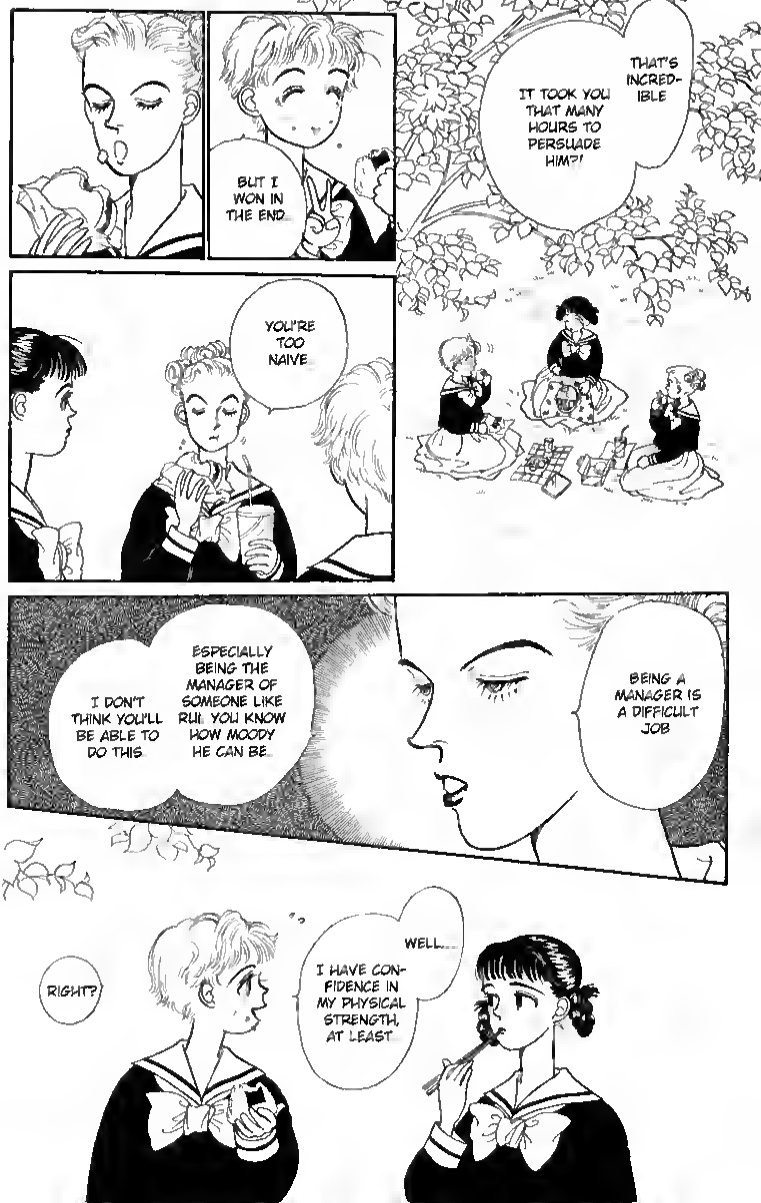
HEY..
I WAS NEVER ANGRY.
I WAS JUST SURPRISED.
?
AREN'T YOU ANGRY ABOUT ALL THIS?
BUT IF RUI-KUN THINKS THIS IS SOMETHING I AM ABLE TO DO, THEN..
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SHOULDN'T DO THIS KIND OF WORK.
BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE AGENCY ARE.

I'LL GIVE IT A TRY
YOU'LL BE FINE

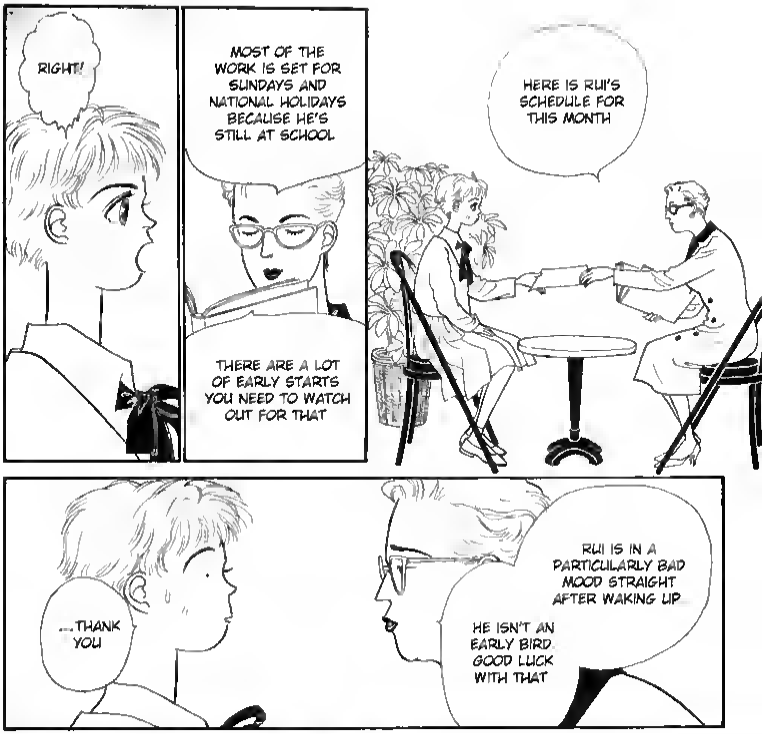
TH— THANK YOU

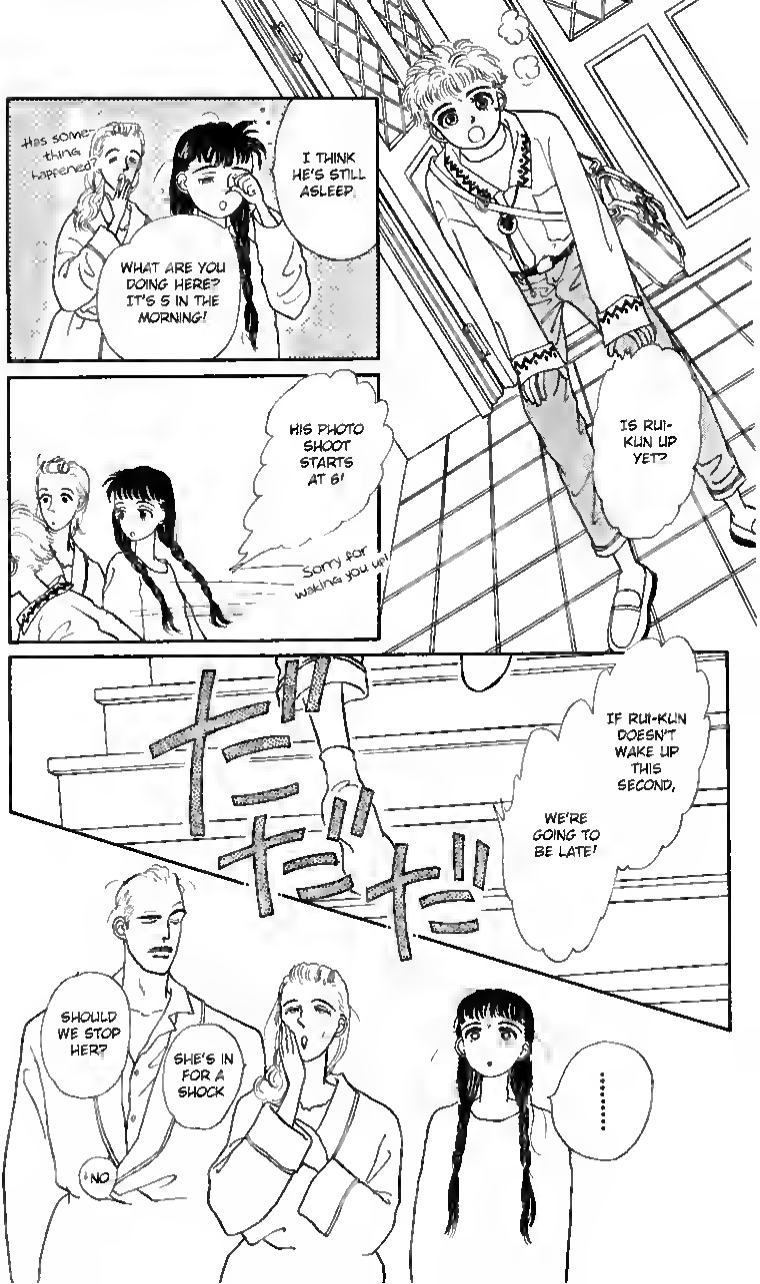
HOW'S THIS?
I GAVE ENDLESS SHOULDER RUBS
NO
WAY!
I BEGGED ...
NO WAY!
A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT...
THE WAR WITH MY FATHER BEGAN
I EVEN TRIED CRYING
YOU'RE FAKING IT!


I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING!
EXCEPT ...
HAVE IT YOUR WAY!!
Natsume 1
Father 0


THAT'S INCRED-IBLE
IT TOOK YOU THAT MANY HOURS TO PERSUADE HIM?!
BUT I WON IN THE END
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE
BEING A MANAGER IS A DIFFICULT JOB
ESPECIALLY BEING THE MANAGER OF SOMEONE LIKE RUI. YOU KNOW HOW MOODY HE CAN BE.
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO THIS
WELL...
I HAVE CON-FIDENCE IN MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH, AT LEAST
RIGHT?

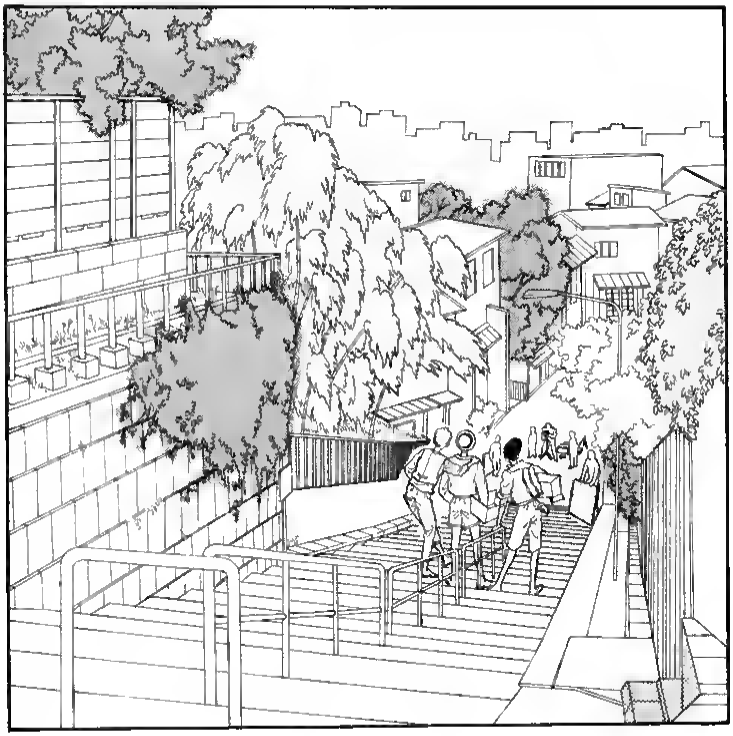
EARTH TO NATSUME, THIS JOB IS IMPOSSIBLE!
PHYSICAL STRENGTH?! YOU NEED TO HAVE SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH!
HMPH.
I WILL.
D... DO YOUR BEST, NATSUME
B・T コーポレーション


RIGHT!
MOST OF THE WORK IS SET FOR SUNDAYS AND NATIONAL HOLIDAYS BECAUSE HE'S STILL AT SCHOOL
THERE ARE A LOT OF EARLY STARTS YOU NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR THAT
HERE IS RUI'S SCHEDULE FOR THIS MONTH
...THANK YOU
RUI IS IN A PARTICULARLY BAD MOOD STRAIGHT AFTER WAKING UP
HE ISN'T AN EARLY BIRD GOOD LUCK WITH THAT


Has something happened?
I THINK HE'S STILL ASLEEP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? IT'S 5 IN THE MORNING!
HIS PHOTO SHOOT STARTS AT 6!
Sorry for waking you up!
IS RUI-KUN UP YET?
IF RUI-KUN DOESN'T WAKE UP THIS SECOND,
WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!
ドドドドド
SHOULD WE STOP HER?
SHE'S IN FOR A SHOCK
NO
.....

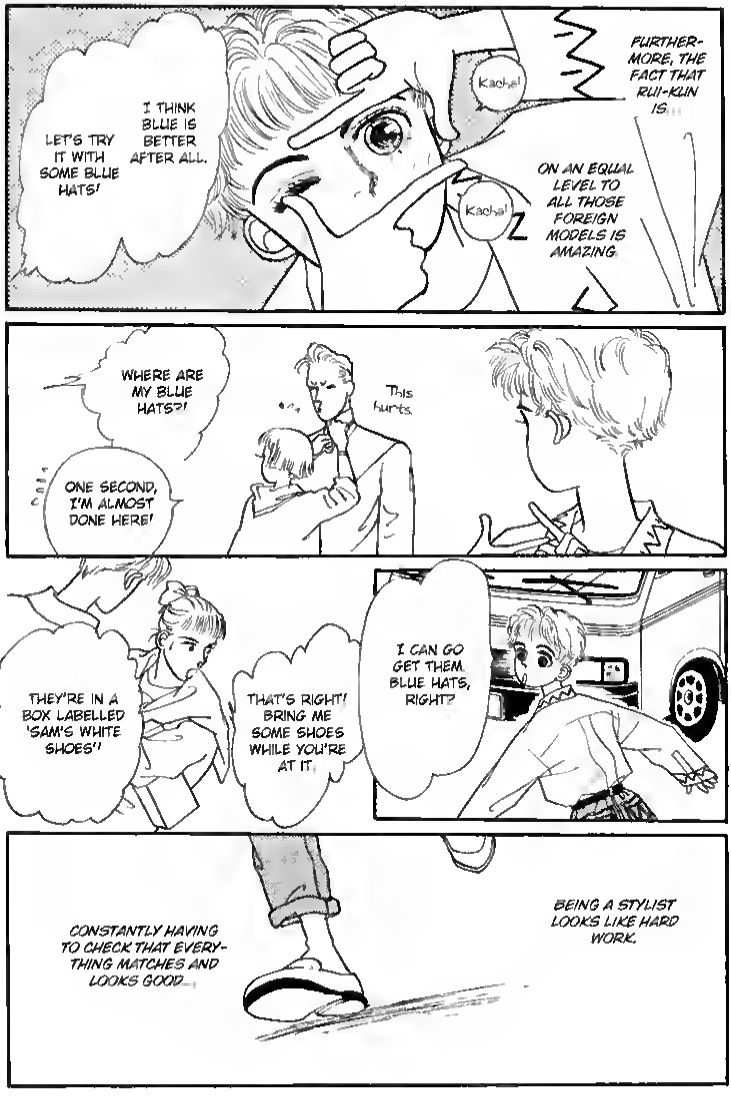
WAKE UP, RUI-KUN!
RUI KUN, WAKE UP. WAKE UP!
SHHHH!!
WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.
SHUT THE HELL UP!

TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME.
SNORE
SNORE
SNORE
WAKE THE HELL UP!!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM WIN...



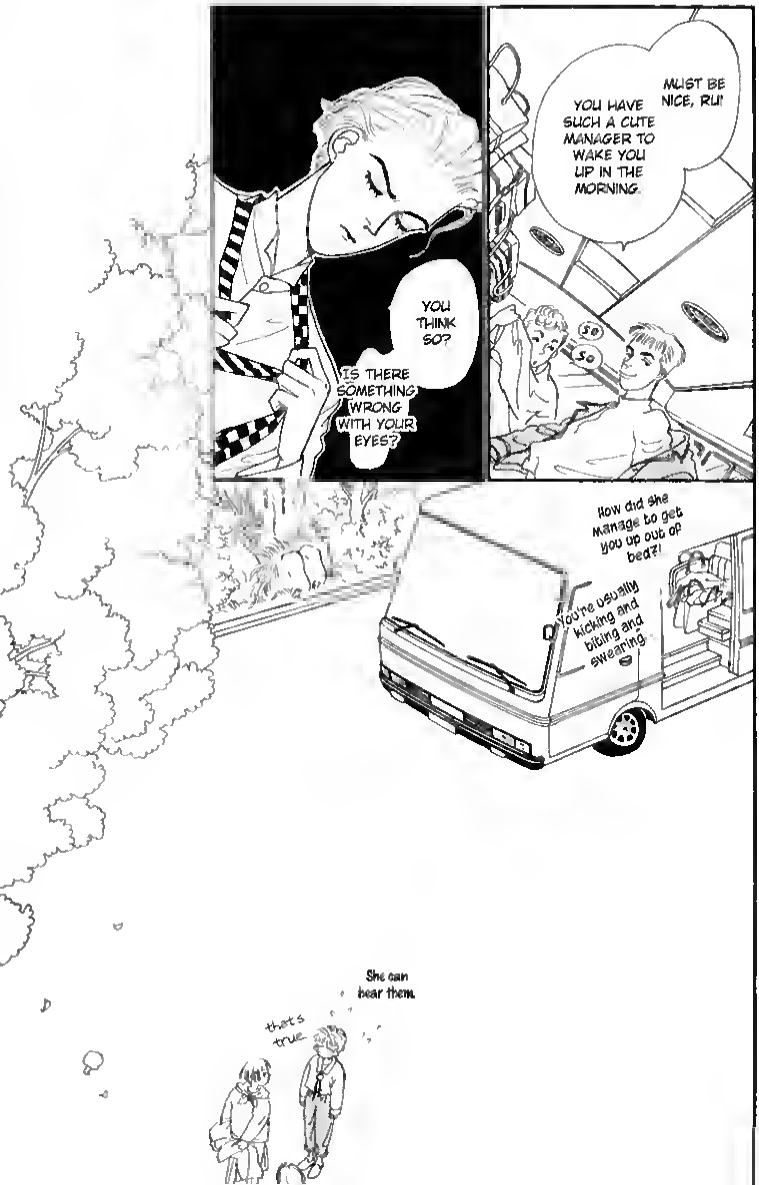
JEFF,
LOWER YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER A LITTLE.
MILK

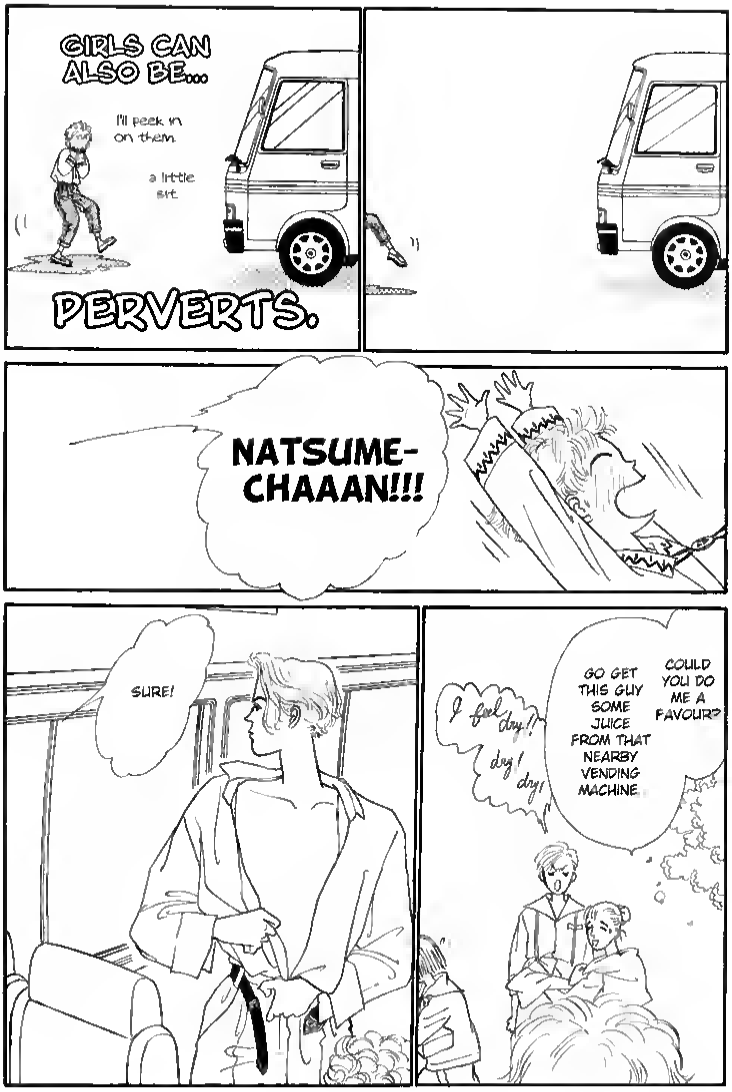
OK!
Now walk down slowly.
IT'S A MIRACLE
THAT RUI GUY HAS NEVER BEEN ON TIME FOR A SHOOT BEFORE.
HE'S USUALLY SO NOISY AND DISOBEDIENT.
BUT TODAY, HE SEEMS TO BE DOING HIS JOB WITH A SERIOUS ATTITUDE
MODELS ARE AMAZING.
ALTHOUGH MY SKIN IS QUITE SMOOTH, EVEN IF I SAY SO MYSELF.
BEING ABLE TO SMILE SO NATURALLY WITH A CAMERA SHOVED IN FRONT OF THEIR FACES
IF IT WERE ME, ALL THE PICTURES WOULD LOOK SO UGLY.


LET'S TRY IT WITH SOME BLUE HATS!
I THINK BLUE IS BETTER AFTER ALL.
Kachal
Kachal
FURTHER-MORE, THE FACT THAT RUI-KUN IS...
ON AN EQUAL LEVEL TO ALL THOSE FOREIGN MODELS IS AMAZING.
WHERE ARE MY BLUE HATS?!
ONE SECOND, I'M ALMOST DONE HERE!
This hurts.
THEY'RE IN A BOX LABELLED 'SAM'S WHITE SHOES'!
THAT'S RIGHT! BRING ME SOME SHOES WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
I CAN GO GET THEM. BLUE HATS, RIGHT?
CONSTANTLY HAVING TO CHECK THAT EVERY-THING MATCHES AND LOOKS GOOD...
BEING A STYLIST LOOKS LIKE HARD WORK.

Waah!
BLUE HATS. .
BLUE HATS...

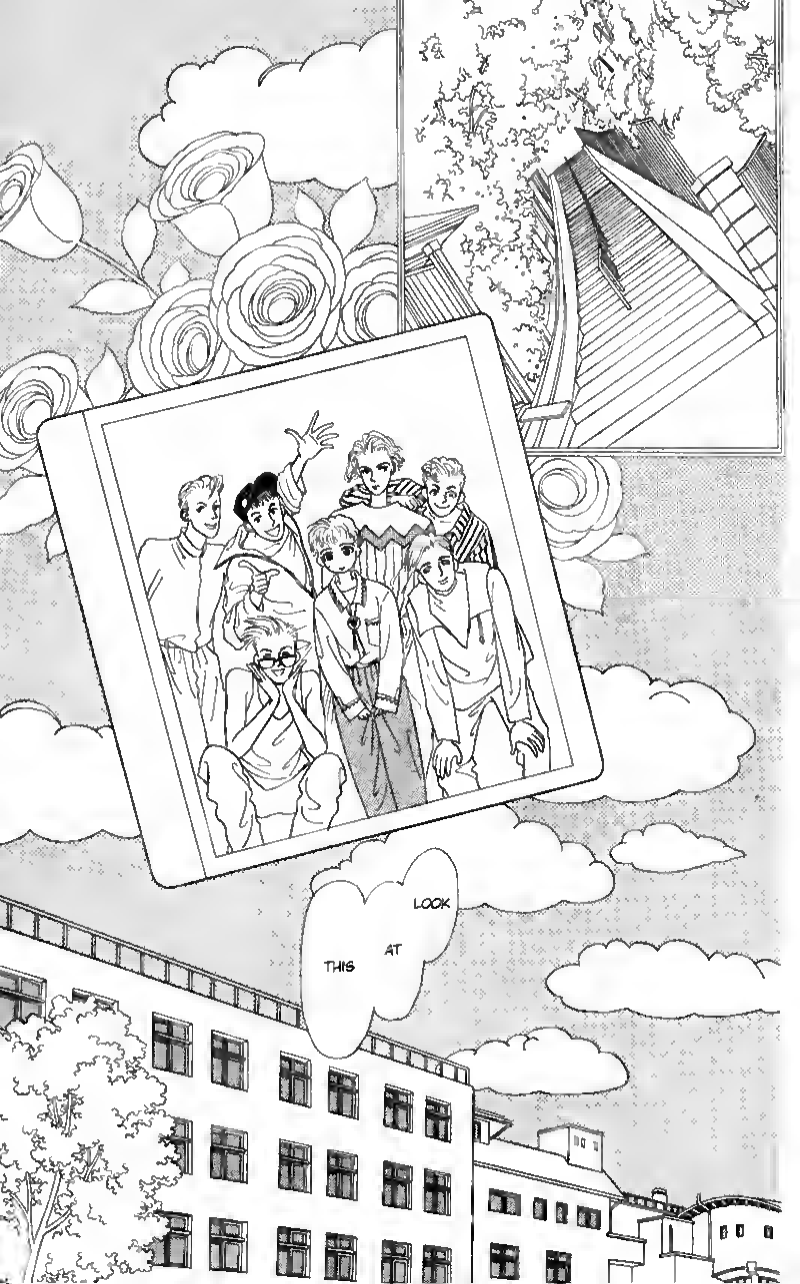
WHAT'S UP?
I'm sorry about that. excuse me.
HAH!
ANY SECOND, THERE'S GOING TO BE LOTS OF NAKED MODELS IN THERE
THAT'S WHERE WE GET CHANGED
THERE WAS.
A NAKED MODEL IN THERE
WHERE ARE MY HATS AND SHOES?!
Ah! Rui's going to be naked!
WANNA WATCH US?
HERE!!


IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?
YOU THINK SO?
YOU HAVE SUCH A CUTE MANAGER TO WAKE YOU UP IN THE MORNING.
MUST BE NICE, RU!
SO
SO
How did she manage to get you up out of bed?!
You're usually kicking and biting and swearing
She can bear them.
that's true.

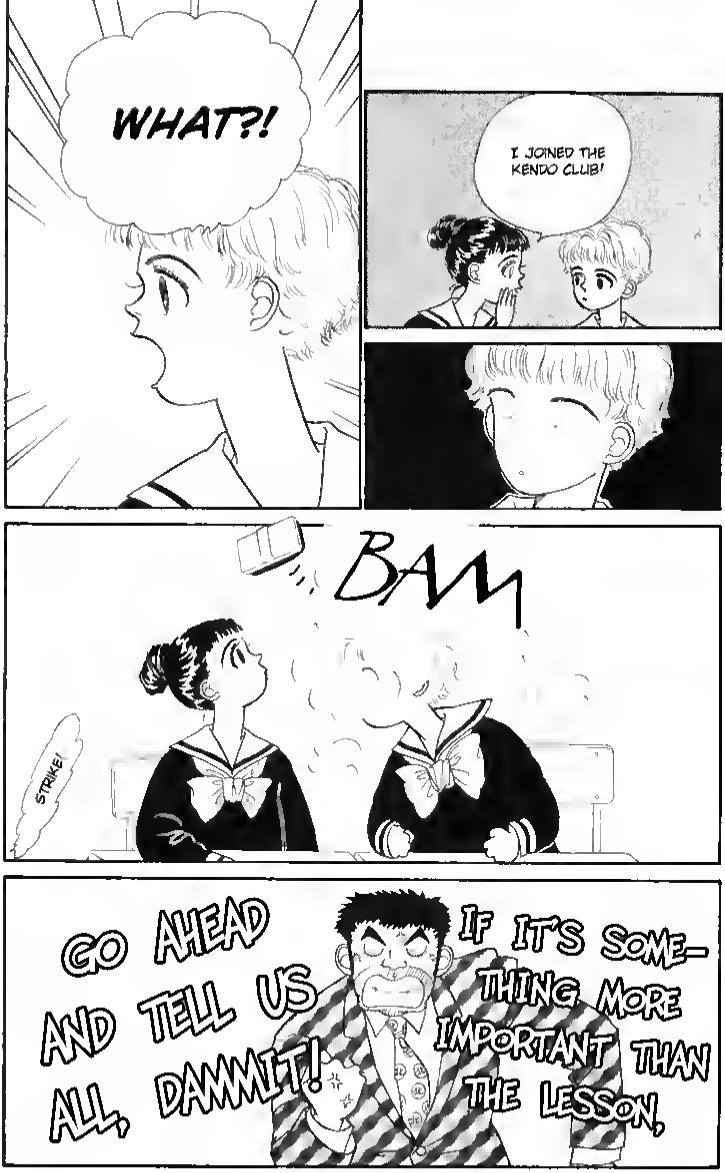

GIRLS CAN ALSO BE...
I'll peek in on them.
a little bit.
PERVERTS.
NATSUME-CHAAAN!!!
SURE!
I feel dry!!
dry!
dry!
GO GET THIS GUY SOME JUICE FROM THAT NEARBY VENDING MACHINE.
COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOUR?

NATSUME-CHAN! ME TOO, ME TOO!
COKE FOR ME!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN ERRANDS LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE MY MANAGER, NO ONE ELSE'S

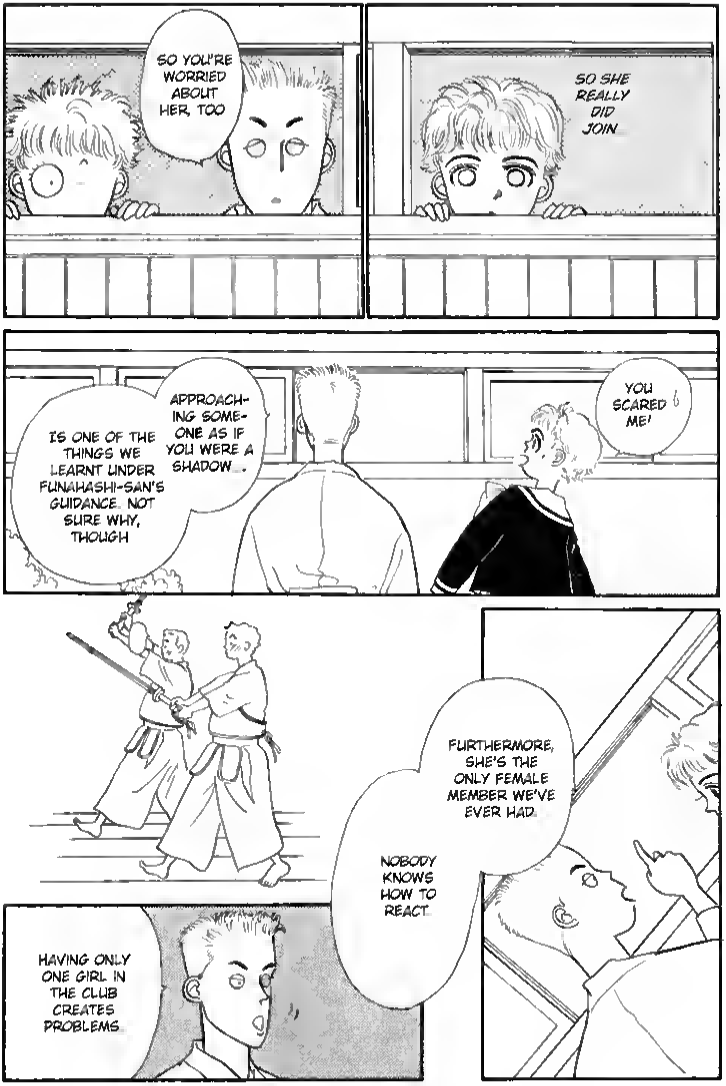
.....
It's just like her to say something like that.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK, RUI-KUN?
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT THIRSTY.
!
Don't shake it too much on your way back!
A CAN OF COFFEE!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
What's so funny?
WE NEED TO GET THIS SHOOT DONE BEFORE THE STREET GETS TOO CROWDED WITH PEDESTRIANS
HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED


LOOK
AT
THIS

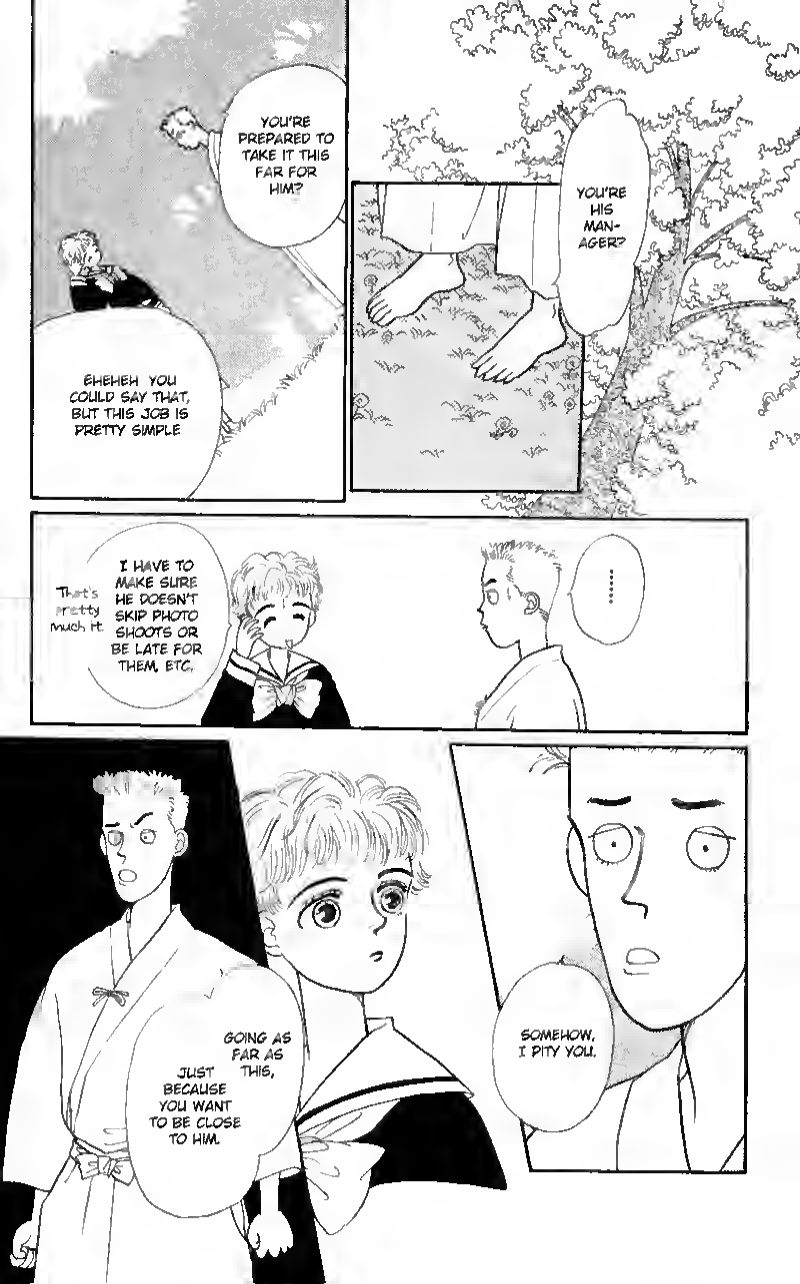
THE CAMERA MAN'S ASSISTANT TOOK IT
HE GAVE ME A COPY
BUT I WISH I HADN'T PULLED A FACE LIKE THAT AS HE WAS TAKING THE PICTURE.
I LOOK REALLY CREEPY.
ISN'T IT BECAUSE THEY'RE PROS?
PULLING A FAKE SMILE LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF A CAMERA.
I DON'T SEE HOW THE MODELS DO IT.
I ALSO HAVE SOME NEW INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH YOU.
I guess you're right.
HEY, NATSUME.
GO ON.

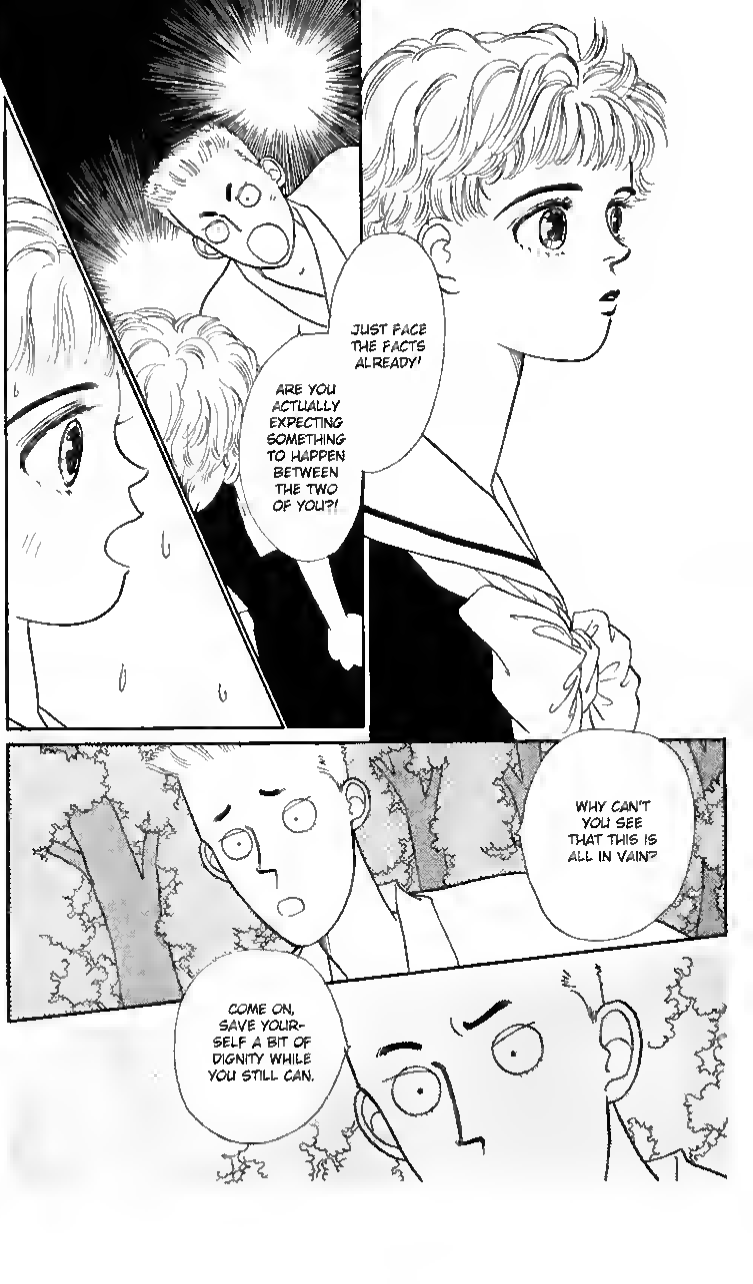

WHAT?!
I JOINED THE KENDO CLUB!
BAM
STRIKE!
GO AHEAD AND TELL US ALL, DAMMIT!
IF IT'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LESSON,

RIGHT.
BECAUSE I WANT TO BECOME A HEALTHY, STRONG GIRL LIKE SHE IS.
I KNOW I CAN DO IT.
Hiyaa!!
Take that!
Yeah!
OH, DEAR

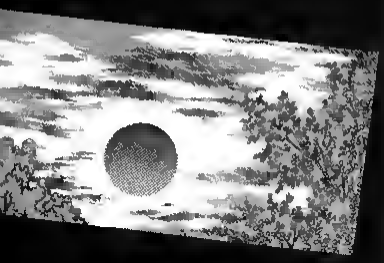

SO YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER, TOO
SO SHE REALLY DID JOIN
YOU SCARED ME!
APPROACHING SOMEONE AS IF YOU WERE A SHADOW...
IS ONE OF THE THINGS WE LEARNT UNDER FUNAHASHI-SAN'S GUIDANCE. NOT SURE WHY, THOUGH
FURTHERMORE, SHE'S THE ONLY FEMALE MEMBER WE'VE EVER HAD.
NOBODY KNOWS HOW TO REACT.
HAVING ONLY ONE GIRL IN THE CLUB CREATES PROBLEMS.

ME?!
SO I WAS WONDERING . . . WHY DON'T YOU JOIN AS WELL?
I'M SORRY BUT I REALLY CAN'T JOIN
YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO
I THINK YOU'D BE REALLY GOOD AT IT!
UH, PROBABLY
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TRY IT OUT
BECAUSE I'LL HAVE TO GO TO PHOTO SHOOTS SOMEDAY AFTER SCHOOL
PHOTO SHOOTS?


YOU'RE PREPARED TO TAKE IT THIS FAR FOR HIM?
EHEHEH YOU COULD SAY THAT, BUT THIS JOB IS PRETTY SIMPLE
YOU'RE HIS MAN-AGER?
That's pretty much it.
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SKIP PHOTO SHOOTS OR BE LATE FOR THEM, ETC.
.....
GOING AS FAR AS THIS, JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE CLOSE TO HIM.
SOMEHOW, I PITY YOU.


ARE YOU ACTUALLY EXPECTING SOMETHING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU?!
JUST FACE THE FACTS ALREADY!
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS IS ALL IN VAIN?
COME ON, SAVE YOURSELF A BIT OF DIGNITY WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

DIG... NITY..
I... STILL HAVE SOME .
THERE'S NO POINT CHASING AFTER A FUTURE THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN!
BECAUSE YOU'RE MUCH UGLIER THAN HIM!



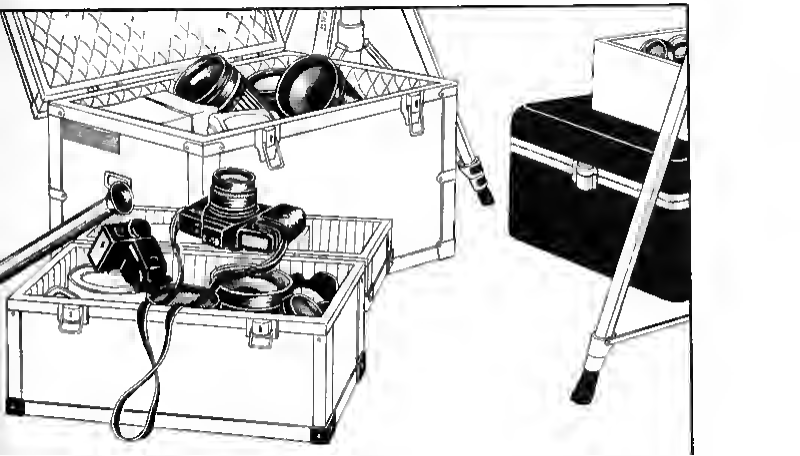
YOU SAID SOME HORRIBLE THINGS, DIDN'T YOU?

DO YOU FIND IT FUN TO BE NASTY TO GIRLS? HEY.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
.....

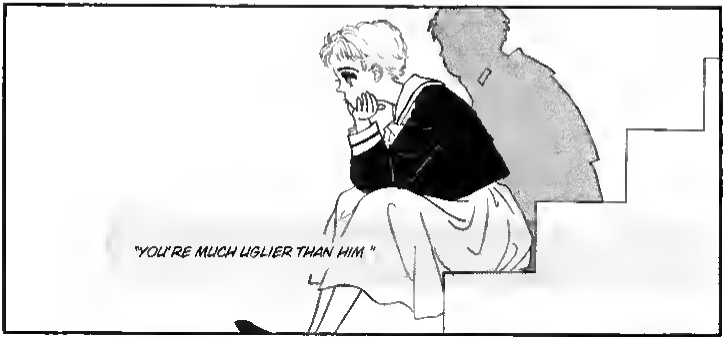
YOU'VE STARTED TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR NATSUME-CHAN?!
AH!! TAKESHIMA, DON'T TELL ME THAT...

I WASN'T TRYING TO BE NASTY, I JUST...

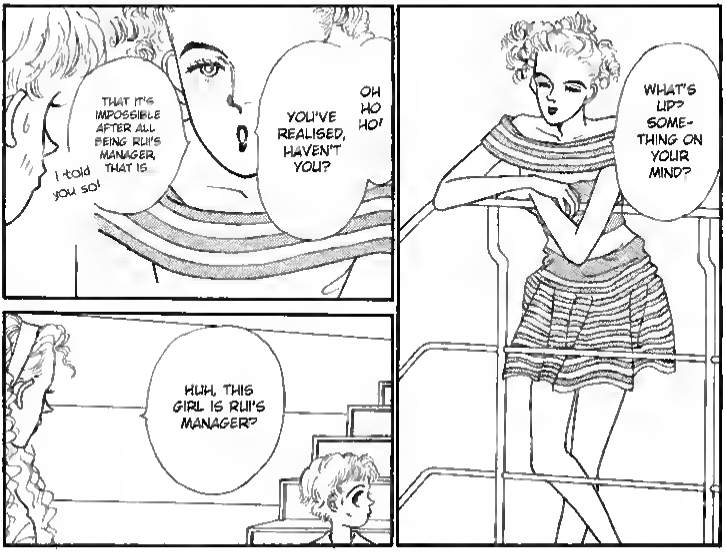
NO!
YOU'RE WRONG!
I'M JUST...
WHY YOU LITTLE... YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT, KENDO YOUNGSTER!
Hoogle
Hoogle
I...

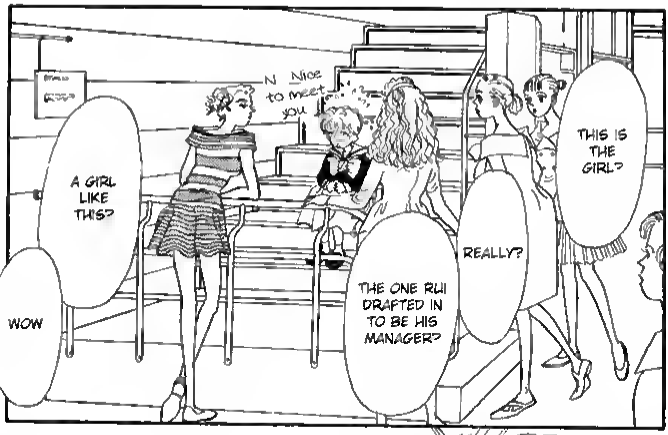


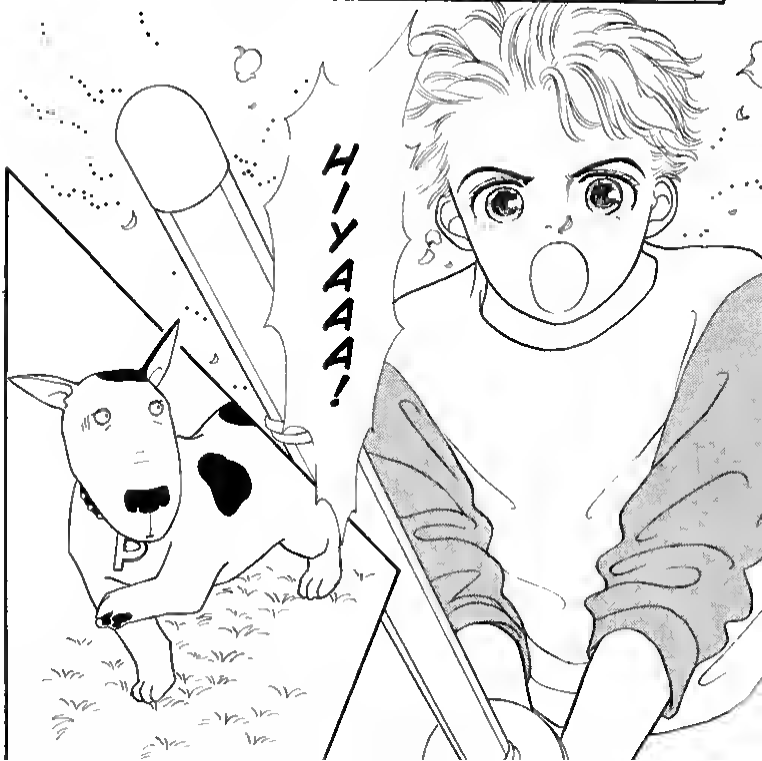
DINA, MOVE A LITTLE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CHAIR.

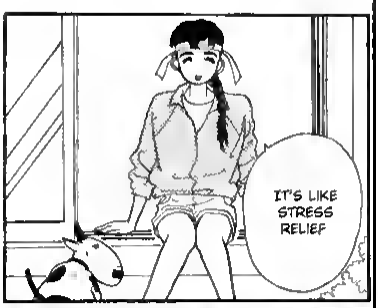


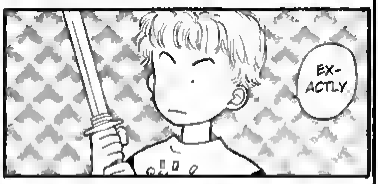
SO THAT'S THE WAY HE SEES IT


I told you so!
THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE AFTER ALL BEING RUI'S MANAGER, THAT IS.
YOU'VE REALISED, HAVEN'T YOU?
OH HO HO!
WHAT'S UP? SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
HUH, THIS GIRL IS RUI'S MANAGER?

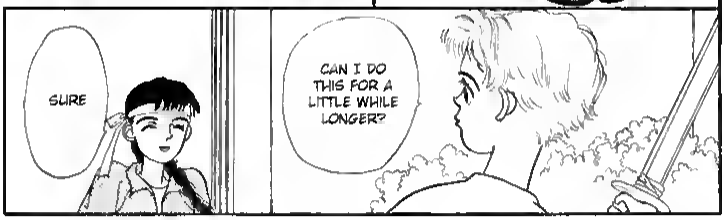

Nice to meet you
THIS IS THE GIRL?
REALLY?
THE ONE RUI DRAFTED IN TO BE HIS MANAGER?
A GIRL LIKE THIS?
WOW


HIYAAA!


IT'S LIKE STRESS RELIEF


EX-ACTLY

WOW...
THIS IS KINDA FUN.


SURE
CAN I DO THIS FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER?

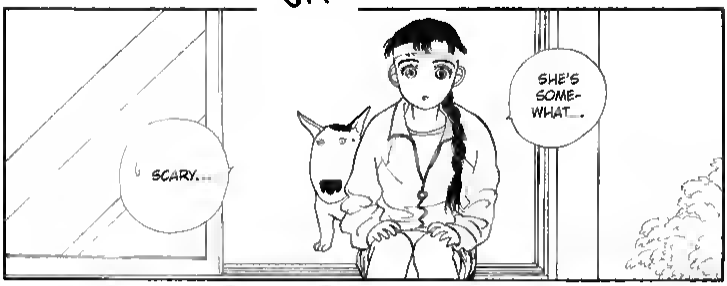
HE'S RIGHT.
I AM KIND OF EXPECTING SOMETHING IN RETURN.
YES, HE'S BETTER LOOKING THAN ME
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER
WHY WOULD IT?
SO WHAT? IT'S FINE TO BE LIKE THIS.
HAVING LOTS OF DREAMS

IS SOME-THING UP?
NAT-SUME,
DARN IT...
DON'T LOOK GOOD TOGETHER IN PHOTOS AND VIDEOS, DOESN'T MEAN THAT...
I'M WORKING OUT.
JUST BECAUSE TWO PEOPLE...
BUT
OR THAT IT ISN'T TRUE LOVE
THEY AREN'T HAPPY TOGETHER.
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE!!

HIYAAAH!

WAAAH!

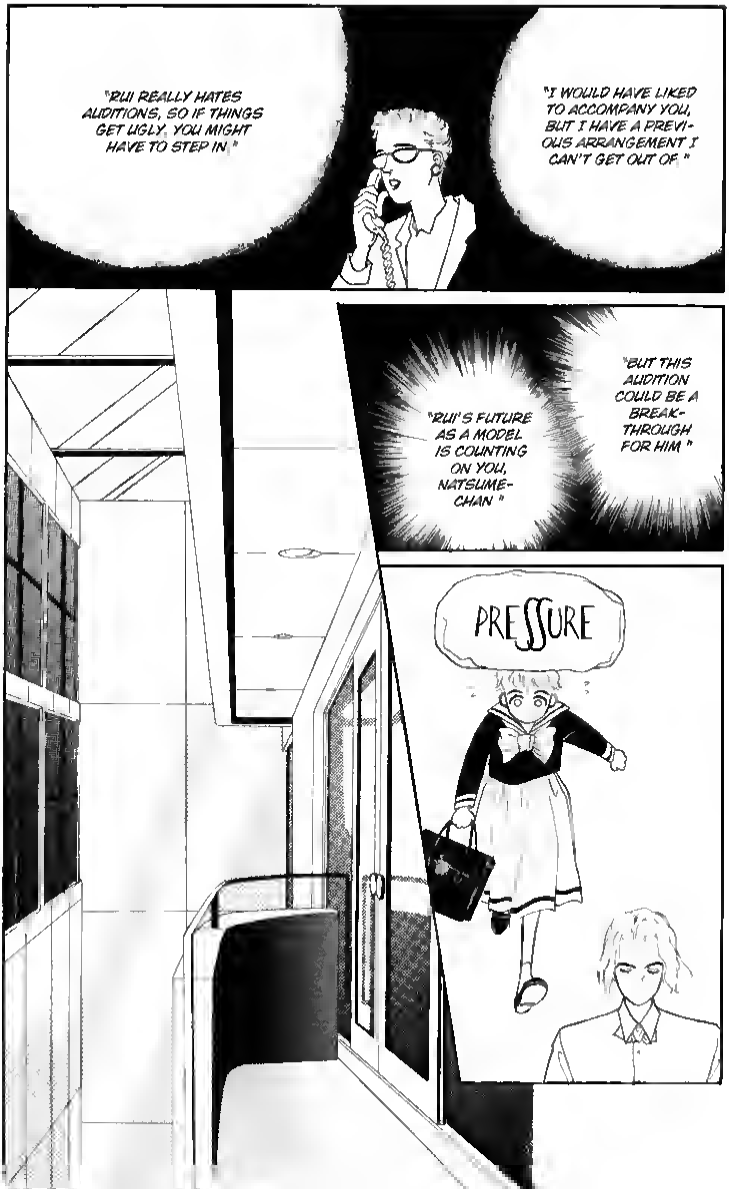
URGHAAA!



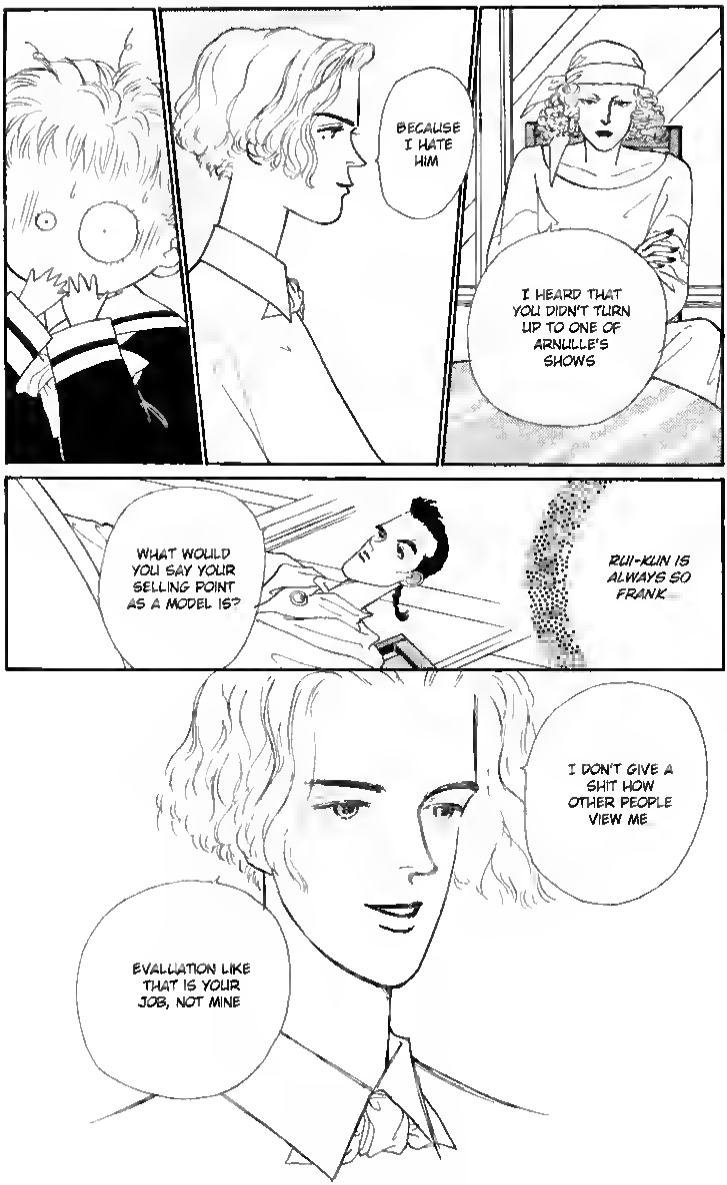
I THINK IT'S SOME SORT OF MODELING AUDITION
DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU ABOUT IT?
.....
STRAIGHT AFTER TODAY'S WORK FINISHES, YOU HAVE TO GO TO SOME PLACE CALLED TS STUDIO IN AOYAMA
NOPE. THE BOSS PHONED ME ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT.
I'M NOT GOING
!
YOU HAVE TO!
THE BOSS SAID IT WAS A VERY, VERY, VERY IMPORTANT AUDITION!
YOU DEFINITELY HAVE TO GO!!
I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING.

WHAT WAS THAT?
IF YOU DON'T GO, I'LL CUT YOU OUT OF MY LIFE. GOT TH...T?
HIYAA!
She's the one who ended up upset.
RUI-KUN!!
IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU
GO AHEAD AND DO IT, THEN
Eventually gave in to her persistence.
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!!
HURRY UP, HURRY UP!

I KNOW!
LET'S TAKE DEEP BREATHS TOGETHER! DEEP BREATHS, NOW.
AH,
BUT BE A LITTLE CAREFUL
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAY
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU SEEM A LITTLE NERVOUS
I THINK RUI-KUN IS ALWAYS THE BEST!
CALM DOWN
I don't know you
DON'T WALK OFF...
WAIT UP
HEY


"I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO ACCOMPANY YOU, BUT I HAVE A PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT I CAN'T GET OUT OF."
"RUI REALLY HATES AUDITIONS, SO IF THINGS GET UGLY, YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STEP IN."
"BUT THIS AUDITION COULD BE A BREAKTHROUGH FOR HIM."
"RUI'S FUTURE AS A MODEL IS COUNTING ON YOU, NATSUMECHAN."
PRESSURE

HOW MANY RELEASES OF NEW COLLEC-TIONS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN?
doki
doki
doki
DUNNO
Three times!
Three!


I HEARD THAT YOU DIDN'T TURN UP TO ONE OF ARNULLE'S SHOWS
BECAUSE I HATE HIM
RUI-KUN IS ALWAYS SO FRANK
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR SELLING POINT AS A MODEL IS?
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT HOW OTHER PEOPLE VIEW ME
EVALUATION LIKE THAT IS YOUR JOB, NOT MINE

CUT IT OUT, IZUI-KUN!
flap
UGH, IT'S OVER...
GET UP AND WALK AROUND.

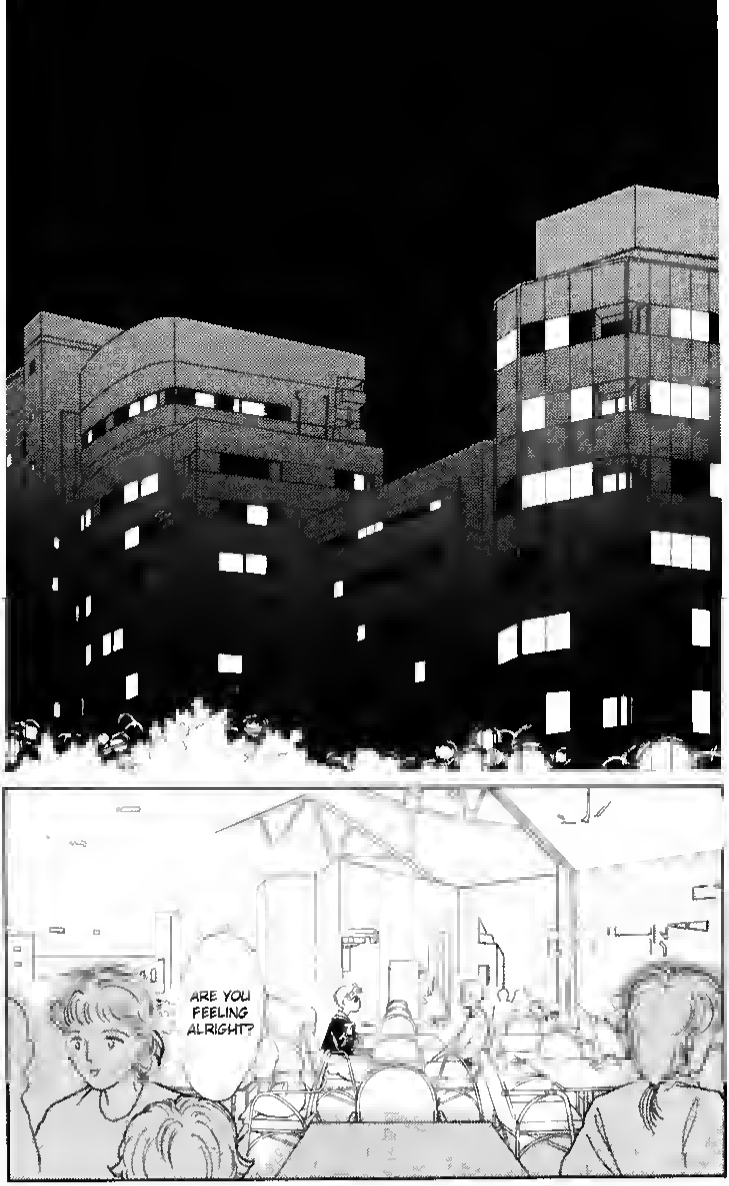
ONE MORE TIME!

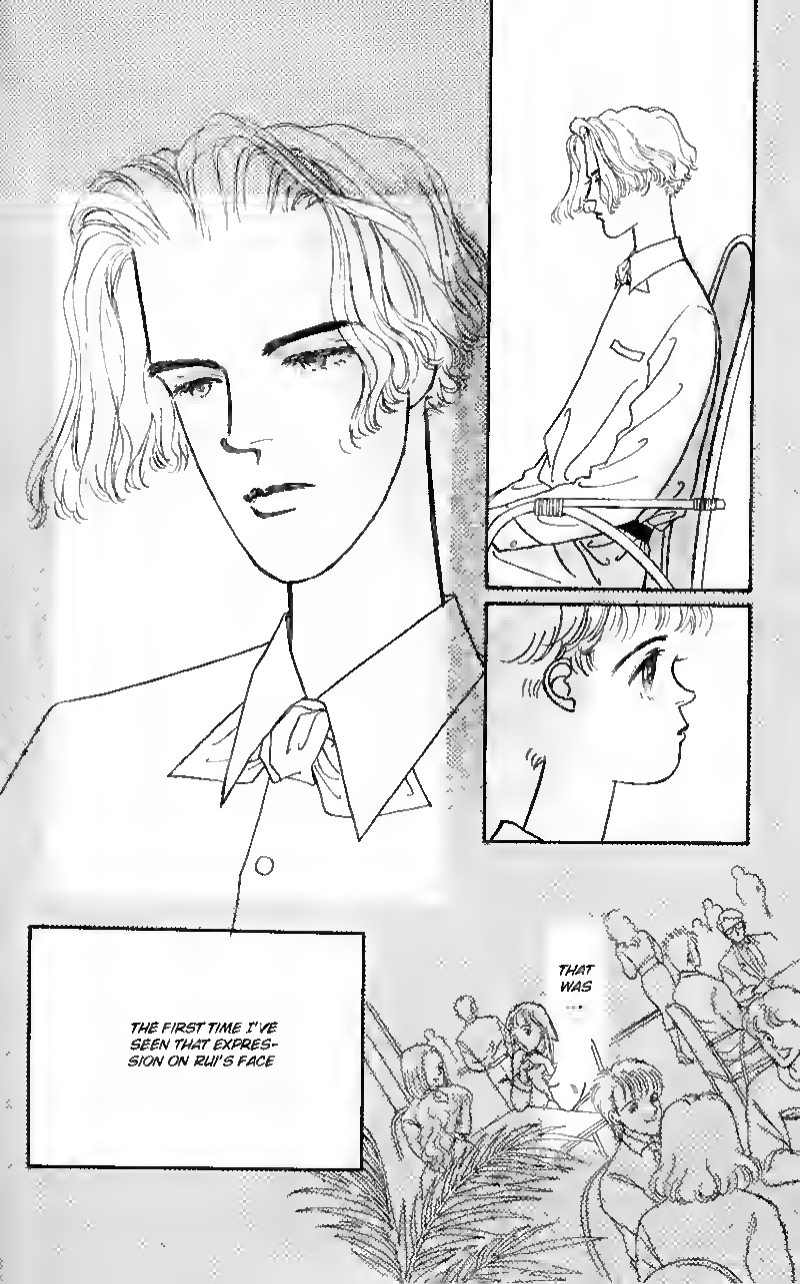
ONE MORE TIME.
ONE MORE TIME

WALKING AROUND THE ROOM AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN ..

RUI-KUN IS FOLLOWING THAT GUY'S COMMAND.

AGAIN AND AGAIN


ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?


THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT EXPRESSION ON RUI'S FACE
THAT WAS ...

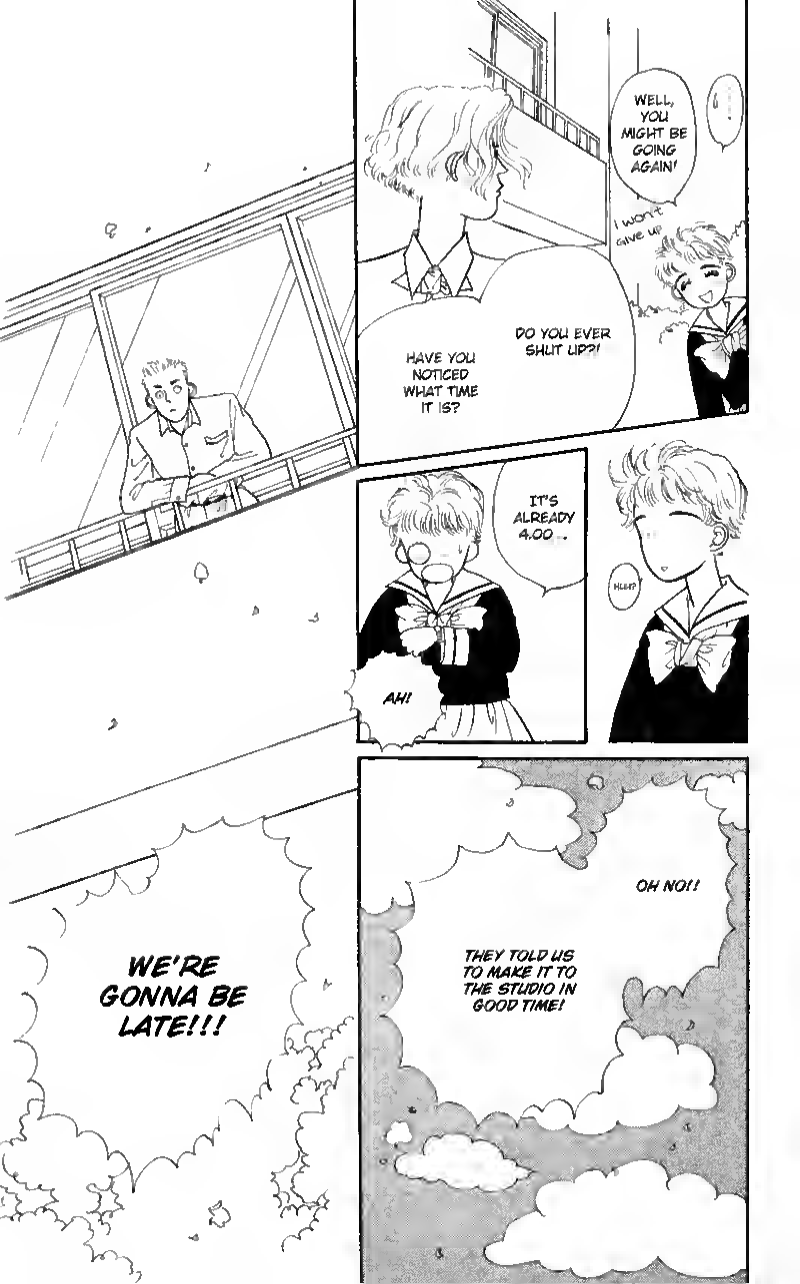
"I DON'T GIVE A SHIT HOW OTHER PEOPLE VIEW ME."
"ONE MORE TIME."

WHEN RUI-KUN WAS
WALKING AROUND IN FRONT THOSE PEOPLE,
I WONDER .
WHAT HE WAS THINKING ABOUT

B・T
コーポレーション
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY, AFTER ALL.
WELL, OKAY. I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
Rui-kun won them over!
BUT AFTER THAT, THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE AGENCY!
IT TURNED OUT WELL IN THE END!
USED A SWEAR WORD?
HE EVEN...
HE... HE ACTUALLY SAID THAT TO THEM?
がく
……!
I don't understand him though. Not one bit. Not one bit.

The Stars of Paris This Summer
AAH!!
AH.
AH
HEY, RUI! LOOK LOOK AT THIS MAGAZINE!
I FOUND THIS ARTICLE
THE PEOPLE AT THAT INTERVIEW WERE DESIGNERS!
REALLY FAMOUS DESIGNERS!!
YEAH, I KNOW. I RECOGNISED THEM.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD
!!!!!
YOU KNEW WHO THEY WERE...?
YOU MIGHT BE GOING TO PARIS, RUI-KUN. HOW EXCITING!
THAT MUST BE WHY THE BOSS WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS INTERVIEW.
PARIS...
IT SAYS THEY'RE HOLDING A FASHION EVENT IN PARIS
I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO PARIS


WELL, YOU MIGHT BE GOING AGAIN!
I won't give up
DO YOU EVER SHUT UP?!
HAVE YOU NOTICED WHAT TIME IT IS?
IT'S ALREADY 4.00 ..
AH!
HUH?
OH NO!!
THEY TOLD US TO MAKE IT TO THE STUDIO IN GOOD TIME!
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!!!

RUN!
RUN, RUI-KUN!!